FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

11 MARCH 1986

Lebanon

The Islamic Jihad denied responsibility for kidnapping the French television crew in Beirut, stating in a note to a Western news agency that the kidnappers had falsely used the Jihad's name and were misrepresenting its position, AFP reported. However, the note reaffirmed the Jihad's claim to have executed French researcher Michel Seurat and it was accompanied by photographs apparently showing Seurat's body. The note said that all future Jihad communiques will be accompanied by pictures of one of the Jihad's hostages, whose life will depend on "the speed of the French Government in satisfying our demands."

As for mediation efforts, French emissary Razzah Ra'd began talks with Seurat's kidnappers 11 March, Paris radio reported, noting that Ra'd is seeking to discover if Seurat has indeed been executed. AFP noted earlier that Iran turned down France's request to allow a French envoy to visit Tehran in connection with the hostages in Lebanon. Meanwhile, Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri denounced the kidnapping of the French television crew in a statement reported by Beirut radio, calling for the immediate release of the four Frenchmen.

Iran-Iraq War

Iraqi planes hit two "large maritime targets" 9-10 March and attacked a "very large maritime target" 11 March, according to Iraqi military statements broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio.

Saudi Arabia

Despite oil price reductions, lowered Saudi oil production, and "repercussions" from other factors, Saudi Arabia will maintain all its domestic programs designed to "safeguard the citizen's prosperity," King Fahd announced in a speech to the Cabinet and nation reported by SPA. Riyadh radio subsequently reported that the cabinet decided to keep the present budget in force and reassess the situation "in the next 5 months."

Pakistan

Five Ghanaians and a Pakistani were arrested in connection with an alleged "foreign-inspired terrorist network," AFP reported citing Karachi police sources. A Libyan commercial official is also being held for questioning amid suspicions that he provided funds to antigovernment terrorist groups in Pakistan, AFP added, citing Pakistani press reports.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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Foreign Ministry Protests Abdul Haq's Visit to UK
LD091734 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1530 GMT 9 Mar 86

[Text] The charge d'affaires of the British Embassy in Kabul was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at 1430 today and a responsible official handed him the following protest note:

According to statements by the British official authorities and by a professional Afghan counterrevolutionary murderer, Abdul Haq is now visiting Britain at the official invitation of that country's government. These statements indicate that prominent political personalities such as Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe will receive him as an outstanding figure of the so-called resistance movement and as a guest of the British Government.

During his meetings and visits, Lady Young, minister of state in the British Foreign Office, heard a report by this criminal agent on 3 March concerning the internal situation of the DRA and, on behalf of her government, she expressed the support of the British Government for the so-called courageous struggle of the people of Afghanistan against the Soviet occupiers.

In this way the British Government welcomes a murderer whose filthy hands are stained with the blood of hundreds of our noble and toiling compatriots. The open confessions of this lunatic lackey of imperialism and reaction in connection with the explosion of a bomb at Kabul International Airport and firing rockets at residential areas, which resulted in thd deaths of dozens of innocent people including children, women, and old people and which were reported by England's mass media, undeniably proves the (?extent) of his criminality and inhumane deeds.

Welcoming such a notorious terrorist and obtaining information from him on the domestic situation in the DRA, and the hostile statements by the official British authorities concerning our revolutionary and free country and its international friends — headed by the Soviet Union — which are extending their humanitarian and internationalist assistance to our people in building a new and democratic society, is open interference in the internal affairs of the DRA and is an open violation of the norms of international custom and diplomatic relations between the two countries. It also fully reveals the provocative measures and actions of the British official authorities and the hostile policy of that country which, in colloboration with its close allies such as the United States and other imperialist and reactionary countries, tries to intensify and continue the undeclared bloody war against the people and Government of the DRA.

The DRA Ministry of Foreign Affairs strongly condemns these interventionist measures and provocations of the official British authorities and lodges protest against them. The DRA believes that the continuation of such a hostile policy by Britain against the DRA is not in the interest of maintaining peace and security in our region and the world and will not improve the existing relations between the two countries. Therefore, the DRA Ministry of Foreign Affairs seriously demands that the government of that country should cease its provocative actions and measures against the DRA. Responsibility for the undesirable consequences arising from them rests with the British Government.

Pakistani Claim of 28 Feb Shelling Rejected
LD091619 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 9 Mar 86

[Text] The charge d'affaires of the Pakistani Embassy in Kabul was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at 1000 today, and the following points were made to him by the director of the First Political Section:

The Pakistani Government, in line with its groundless and empty accusations against the DRA, has once again claimed that on 28 February the DRA border guards fired 15 artillery shots in the north of Khyber Agency.

After comprehensive assessment, the DRA Government considers this claim to be far from the truth, and resolutely rejects it. It further states that the Pakistani authorities should stop such accusations, which do nothing but aggravate the situation on the border.

UN Special Envoy Meets Foreign Minister Dost
LD101625 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Foreign Affairs Minister Shah Mohammad Dost met Diego Condovez, the assistant to UN secretary general, this afternoon at 1600 in his office.

Then in the presence of Sarwar Yuresh and a number of Foreign Ministry officials, and Diego Condovez' accompanying delegation, the foreign affairs minister held talks with the UN secretary general's assistant at the ministry's headquarters. He spoke on the continuation of his mission regarding the search for a political solution to the situation around Afghanistan and on the process of the Geneva talks between the DRA and Pakistan.

According to another report, Diego Cordovez and his accompanying delegation arrived in Kabul from Islamabad at 1500 today, in continuation of his regional tour, to hold talks with the DRA authorities and to exchange views.

The delegation was welcomed at Kabul International Airport by Foreign Affairs Minister Vice Minister Sarwar Yuresh; adviser Sakhi Daneshjo; the vice head of that ministry's Protocol Section; and also by the head of the UN development program, Samendo Banerjee.

Gandhi Discusses Measures To Contain Insurgency

BK090333 Delhi Domestic Service in English
02[illegible] GMT 9 Mar 86

[Text] The prime minister, Mr Rajiv Gandhi, has said a series of measures are being worked out by the center to contain insurgency in some parts of the northeastern region. He was talking to newsmen at the Itanagar helipad before his departure for Towang this morning.

Referring to the Mizo problem, Mr Gandhi said talks with the Mizo leader, Mr Laldenga, will be resumed soon. He said Mr Laldenga is expected to be in Delhi this month for this purpose. Mr Rajiv Gandhi and his wife, Mrs Sonia Gandhi, were given a warm send-off when they left Itanagar after a night's stay.

Further on Imposition of Governor's Rule in Kashmir

Minister Makes Statement

BK101033 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] The Lok Sabha was officially informed today about the imposition of governor's rule in Jammu and Kashmir following the political developments in the state. The minister for human resources development, Mr Narasimha Rao, said in a statement that the president received a report from the governor on Friday stating that the G.M. Shah government has been reduced to an utter minority. The governor also conveyed his assessment that law and order and security of the state was under serious threat. This was further compounded by the grave political instability. In these circumstances, the governor reported that a situation had arisen in which the governor [as heard] of the state could not be carried on in accordance with the constitution of Jammu and Kashmir. The statement was made by Mr Narasimha Rao in the absence of the home minister.

Earlier, during zero-hour, Mr Saifuddin of National Conference welcomed the imposition of the governor's rule but demanded that the assembly should be dissolved immediately. He also wanted a commission of inquiry into alleged corruption by the former ministry.

Governor on Administration

BK101628 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] The Rajasthan chief secretary, Mr Naresh Chandra, and the Madhya Pradesh inspector general of police, Mr G.M. Quereshi, have been appointed as advisers to the Jammu and Kashmir governor. Disclosing this at a press conference in Jammu this evening, the state governor, Mr Jagmohan, also announced supersession of nominated panchayats [village councils] all over the state. Giving details of other steps taken to provide efficient and clean administration to the people, Mr Jagmohan said that statutory subordinate services selection board and state security advisory board will be set up. Referring to the law and order situation in the state, Mr Jagmohan said that normalcy is fast returning. He said that further relaxation of curfew in Srinagar will be from 0500 in the morning till 2300 in the night instead of 0600 to 2100.

Sikh Student Wing Splits With Militant Akali Faction

HK101448 Hong Kong AFP in English 1427 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Amritsar, India, March 10 (AFP) — Sikh militants campaigning for a separate homeland here suffered a jolt over the weekend when their students' wing formally split off from the main militant faction, group leaders said Monday.

The All India Sikh Students' Federation, led by Harinder Singh Kahlon, snapped ties on Saturday with the United Akali Dal, the militant faction of the moderate Sikh political party, the Akali Dal.

No official reason was given for the split, but informed sources said the students differed with United Akali Dal leaders on the hierarchy of the militant Sikh faction.

The students' federation had earlier pledged its support to a five-member committee formed on January 26 which it said should carry ultimate authority over Sikh political and religious matters.

In a resolution passed Saturday, the federation said it would not maintain relations with organisations which did not consider the committee supreme.

The United Akali Dal is formally led by Baba Joginder Singh, and has yet to announce its total pledge to the five-member committee.

Meanwhile, a group of federation members said Mr Khalon had no legal right to decide the policies of the federation as both the group's president and general [title as received] were in jail.

Police Attempt To Stop Tibetan Protest at PRC Embassy

HK101456 Hong Kong AFP in English 1440 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] New Delhi, March 10 (AFP) — The police here rounded up hundreds of Tibetan refugees on Monday in an attempt to stop a major Tibetan demonstration outside the Chinese Embassy, police sources said, provoking accusations of brutality.

The sources said officers had swooped on one group of Tibetans near New Delhi's diplomatic quarter and had herded them into buses.

Later, as other enraged Tibetans squatted at a police barricade and chanted anti-Chinese and anti-police slogans, officers went to a Tibetan camp in the north of the capital and confiscated or immobilised buses that were to take another 1,500 Tibetans to the Chinese Embassy, the sources said.

A spokesman for the refugees, Karmachokey said the police had used "brute force" against the refugees and had thrown them into police vans "if we were animals." [as received]

Miss Karmachokey said two policemen had brutally assaulted her and her associate Sovam Dolma after tearing their clothes.

Both women sat down in protest at another barricade and shouted Anti-Indian slogans. Elderly Tibetan women sat with them and wept.

As a two-member delegation from the Tibetan Youth Congress pasted a memorandum on the locked gates of the embassy, the police stopped taxis and city buses and dragged out Tibetan youths by their feet or hair and dumped them in vans.

"It was a horrible experience," said a Tibetan tourist from Singapore who said he had been dragged out of a limousine.

The Tibetan Youth Congress had called the demonstration to coincide with the 27th anniversary of an uprising against the Chinese occupation of Tibet.

The entire diplomatic area was cordoned off on Monday and the Chinese Embassy was ringed with armed security guards and paramilitary forces.

Area police chief B.K. Gupta said at least 110 Tibetans, including 30 women, had been arrested and charged with breaches of public order near New Delhi's diplomatic quarter.

He said Tibetan refugees living in camps and hostels were not being allowed to leave the premises and join the demonstration.

He said that over 500 policemen and officers had been posted at the main barricades surrounding the diplomatic area.

The police said the arrested refugees would be released soon.

Hindu Congress-I Member Wounded in Punjab Shooting

HK110702 Hong Kong AFP in English 0647 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] New Delhi, March 11 (AFP) — Unidentified gunmen shot and wounded a Hindu member of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress (I) Party in Punjab Monday, the UNITED NEWS OF INDIA news agency said.

Two men opened fire on Congress member Mangat Ram, 55, outside his home in the village of Raichak.

Local doctors had declared him dead, but hospital doctors later said he was alive and critically injured, UNI reported.

In another incident, unidentified men shot and wounded a Hindu palmreader, Pandit Ayodhya Prasad, 52, near Ludhiana, the agency said.

UNI did not lik the shootings to the Sikh autonomy campaign in the state, but observers said the pattern of the crimes suggested involvement of Sikh militants.

A section of India's 16 million Sikhs are campaigning for autonomy in Punjab.

'Extremists' Storm Village, Kill 4 in Tripura

BK110905 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] In Tripura, four persons were killed and four others seriously injured when a group of extremists stormed Data Ram Bari village in south district last night. About 40 shops were burned down after they looted cash and valuables at gunpoint. An adjacent village of Akrampara was also set on fire by the extremists. The injured have been admitted to hospital. Police officials have rushed to the spot to control the situation.

Editorial on U.S., PRC Military Aid to Pakistan

BK071504 Delhi NATIONAL HERALD in English 25 Feb 86 p 5

[Editorial: "New Axis"]

[Text] Pakistan's finance minister Mian Mohammed Yasin Khan Wattoo is in Washington for talks on a new deal to supplement the current five-year package valued at $3.2 billion for economic and military aid in 1979 [year as published]. Former finance minister Mabbubul Haq had earlier indicated that Islamabad wanted $6.5 billion during the next five years. There are enough indications that the U.S. would grant this aid. In the first week of Febraury the Reagan administration asked for increased funds for Pakistan and South Korea in a foreign aid budget for fiscal 1987 submitted to Congress. The request called for $666.4 million for Pakistan ($341.4 million for military aid and $325 million economic) also raising the total for the current fiscal year ending September 30 to $628.6 million. This enhanced aid is to achieve 'foreign policy objectives' of the U.S. But reading between the lines, it is obvious that it is meant to put pressure on Pakistan's immediate neighbourhood, India, to divert its economic resources to unproductive ventures, besides, creating a fear psychosis between neighbours.

The American military aid is in addition to what Pakistan has received from China. Of the items that have been obtained from China hardware has been secured "gratis". This legitimately raises the question that a new military axis is in the offing. If so, India cannot be expected to be a passive onlooker of events.

UN Special Envoy Interviewed on Afghanistan Talks

HK101148 Hong Kong AFP in English 1140 GMT 10 Mar 86

[By Dmitri Kochko]

[Text] Islamabad, March 10 (AFP) — The U.N. special envoy on the Afghan problem, Diego Cordovez, left here for Kabul on Monday in another bid to bring the Afghan Government and Pakistan to discuss the major outstanding disagreement over Soviet troop withdrawal from Afghanistan.

Before leaving for the Afghan capital, Mr. Cordovez told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE in an interview that "a compromise formula" should be sought to unlock "very difficult negotiations".

Mr. Cordovez is trying to set up a seventh session of the indirect proximity talks between the two neighbours for the end of this month or early April in Geneva.

The talks began in 1982, after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan in December 1979, but the last session ended abruptly before the start of this year in disagreement over the format of future negotiations.

Mr. Cordovez said there was "big distrust" between Pakistan and Afghanistan and that each side thought "the other was trying to trap it".

He believed a military solution was not possible, but a political solution was and was asking both sides to pursue talks about the withdrawal of Soviet troops, known in diplomatic jargon as the fourth instrument.

Previous rounds of talks had largely settled the questions of non-interference in each other's affairs, international guarantees on agreements and the voluntary return to Afghanistan of about four million Afghans who have fled to Pakistan. "I am asking both to go on with negotiations on the fourth instrument," he said.

But Kabul and Islamabad "must show sincerity and determination".

"Both are aware of the importance of settling the problem and I hope we can find a compromise formula," he said.

Kabul is prepared to discuss directly with Islamabad the withdrawal of Soviet troops, but Pakistan, which estimates some 150,000 Soviets troops are in Afghanistan, has rejected direct talks as recognition of a "puppet regime" manipulated by Moscow. Mr. Cordovez said his search for a compromise should be made easier now doubt had been removed about a withdrawal timetable. Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev has said that a timetable exists for the Red Army to pull out once the conditions are deemed right.

"He was not obliged to commit himself so clearly," Mr. Cordovez said.

The U.N. mediator is due back here in "two or three days". He arrived here on Saturday and has had talks with the Pakistani authorities.

6 Arrested for Participation in 'Terrorist Network'

NC102004 Paris AFP in English 1945 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Karachi, Pakistan, March 10 (AFP) — Six suspected terrorists, five Ghanaians and a Pakistani have been arrested in connection with an alleged foreign-inspired terrorist network in the country, police sources said here Monday.

Ahmad Muhammad 'Ammar, Libyan deputy managing director of the Pakistan-Libya joint holding company, whose offices were fire-bombed on February 9, and who himself "kidnapped" a week later and subsequently "recovered", is also understood to be under arrest. [sentence as received] Local press reports, not confirmed by police, said Mr. 'Ammar was allegedly working for the Libyan intelligence services, and is suspected to have maintained links and provided funds to anti-government terrorist groups in Pakistan. He has not been allowed to meet newsmen since his kidnapping and subsequent recovery. The police sources said the other arrests were as a result of questioning him, and all those arrested had now been moved to Islamabad for further interrogation by the federal police.

There have been a number of bomb explosions and multiple murders in different parts of the country in recent months.

Meanwhile, police sources said the Iraqi consul-general's car was the target of an unsuccessful time-bomb attempt yesterday. The bomb fell off as the car moved and exploded on the road, causing no damage. The Iraqi consulate sources refused to comment or confirm whether the consul-general was in the car at the time. Police have not made any arrest but generally suspect an Iranian hand in the incident.

Election Commission Registers Political Parties

BK091029 Karachi Domestic Service in English 1005 GMT 9 Mar 86

[Text] The Election Commission has ordered the registration of three more political parties. They are: Pakistan Christian National Party, Pakistan Ittehad Therik, and Pakistan National League.

People's Party Rejected

BK081606 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 8 Mar 86

[Text] Four more political parties were registered at a meeting of the Election Commission in Karachi today. The parties are Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Pakistan led by Mr Shan Ahmed Noorani, Jamiat-i-Ulema-i-Islam led by Maulana Abdullah Darkhasti, Markazi Jamiat Ahle Hadith led by Maulana Muenuddin Lakhwi and Al-Mashraqki Khaksar Tehriq led by Hafiz Manzoor Elahi.

An application by a political party in the name of People's Party of Pakistan was rejected by the commission because it does not fulfil legal requirements of the Political Parties Act. This party is led by Dr Arshad Islam.

Chief Election Commissioner Justice S.A. Nusrat presided over the meeting and the commission members Justice Mohammad Rafiq Tariq and Justice Syed Alai Madad Shah attended the meeting.

Musawat Party Leader on Need for Nuclear 'Device'

GF101142 Karachi DAWN in English 4 Mar 86 p 2

[*DAWN* correspondent report]

[Text] Gujranwala, March 3: Mr Hanif Ramay, chief of Pakistan Musawat Party, while addressing the district bar here on Monday said that it had become imperative for Pakistan now to build a nuclear device. It was the only way to persuade India to develop friendly relations with Pakistan, he added.

He said that those who think that Islam is not an essential philosophy for Pakistan, are living in a fools' paradise. He deplored that provincialism and parochialism had reached the climax in Pakistan. He referred to the Jamshoro University kidnappings and abductions in the connection. Rebutting the claim that parliamentary democracy had been restored in Pakistan, he said, if that was so, how come the president in his capacity as chief of the Army Staff, subservient to the prime minister, while the premier himself could be sacked and the National Assembly could be dissolved by the president.

The chief of the Musawat Party dismissed the concept of confederation and said that it was a martial law product. He strongly condemned feudalism and said that living conditions of the downtrodden could not be improved unless the feudal lords and generals were eliminated from politics.

Editorial on Chances of U.S. Aid in War With India

GF101326 Lahore JANG in Urdu 5 Mar 86 p 3

[Editorial: "U.S. Aid in Case of War"]

[Text] The distinguished leader of the MPD and the well-known politician Nawabzada Nasrullah Khan has said that it is meaningless to expect U.S. aid in any Pakistan-India war. In an interview with *JANG* he referred to the statement by a parliamentary secretary who was responding to an adjournment motion in the National Assembly. The secretary said that under the terms of the 1959 agreement the United States was commited to come to the aid of Pakistan if there were a war.

As far as the question of American aid in the event of foreign aggression against Pakistan is concerned, we have already seen the American attitude during the war of 1965 and 1971. The United States has never honored its commitments and promises to weak countries, especially to the Islamic countries. Pakistan in particular has already tasted the bitter and unforgettable experience of the U.S. attitude. It would be a national suicide to place our trust again on such imaginary expectations. The situation has not changed. Even now the United States is not prepared to accept Pakistan's peaceful atomic program. Despite assurances offered at the highest level, the Americans continue to express doubts and misgivings regarding Pakistan. It was the United States which put pressure on France to cancel the sale of the atomic reprocessing plant to Pakistan and even today the United States is doing its best to oppose the Pakistani nuclear program. On the other hand, the United States is not only supplying India with the latest defense system computers, but is also not objecting to India's atomic programs. In fact, India is being encouraged by the United States. Similarly, the Israeli and the South African atomic programs have been completed through American support and aid.

The United States stopped its military aid to Pakistan during the 1965 war. The restoration of economic and military aid to Pakistan after the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan is, in fact, to safeguard American interests in the region. If the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan had not posed any threat to the American interests, the United States would never have gone to the aid of Pakistan. The hollowness of the 1959 agreement was fully proved in the 1965 and 1971 wars. The process of giving foolish assurances to the nation on the bases of these agreements should stop now. We must bear in mind the facts toward which allusions have been made by several national leaders — that we must fight our battles ourselves. We will have to safeguard our interests ourselves. The United States will never come to our aid. This is a fact, not a supposition. Our rulers should base their future policies on this reality. We should think of ways to save the nation from the mirage of American aid. The secret of our existence and well-being is hidden in this reality.

Afghan Mujahidin Attack Soviet-Karmal Forces

'Suprise' Attack in Ghazni

BK100240 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] According to reports, the mujahidin caused heavy losses to Soviet-Karmal forces in Faryab Province recently. The mujahidin carried out a suprise attack on Soviet-Karmal forces near (Askarkot) in Ghazni Province, killing 11 Soviet soldiers.

Base 'Destroyed' in Herat

BK100626 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 0600 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say that mujahidin destroyed a base of the Karmal forces in Herat on Thursday [6 March] and captured three security posts. According to a report, 11 soldiers, including the commander of the base, were killed and about 40 or 50 captured.

Another report says 70 Karmal soldiers assigned to 6 security posts in Herat defected to the mujahidin.

NEPAL

Banned Communist Party Plans To Contest Elections

HK090136 Hong Kong AFP in English 0122 GMT 9 Mar 86

[By Kedar Man Singh]

[Text] Kathmandu, March 9 (AFP) — The banned pro-Soviet Nepal Communist Party has decided to contest the elections for the country's partyless parliament slated for May, a party source has said.

Two other outlawed opposition parties, the Nepali Congress and the pro-China Communist Party, have said they plan to boycott the May 12 elections for the National Panchayat (parliament) to press demands for revival of the multi-party system and for major constitutional changes.

But leaders of the three factions of the pro-Soviet party have decided to field 36 candidates in the election, which is to choose 112 of the 140 members of the National Panchayat.

The king appoints the other members.

After six months of popular unrest in 1979, the king held a national referendum offering a choice between the partyless panchayat system and Western-style democracy, a contest won by supporters of the partyless system.

Observers said there had been serious differences of opinion among leaders of the Nepali Congress, with party General Secretary Girija Prasad Koirala among the minority wishing to contest the election.

Two other leaders, including the president of the banned party, Krishna Prasad Bhattarai, are determined to boycott the polls unless the king introduces major changes in the constitution and an interim government is constituted to ensure a "free, fair and peaceful" election.

An interim government is likely to be constituted around April 12 when members' five-year terms of office in the National Panchayat expire.

In the interim government all controversial ministers are to be dismissed and neutral ministers are to be picked, mostly from among the king's 28 nominees, to ensure impartiality in the election, a highly placed panchayat source said.

Meanwhile in a written statement, Krishna Raj Verma, general secretary of pro-Soviet Communist Party, described the forthcoming general election as an "historic event" which he believed would provide an opportunity for all people to exercise their democratic right to elect representatives to the national legislature through universal franchise.

Mr. Verma added that only the "conscious and vigilant public and their understanding" could ensure a free and fair election.

Mass participation in the election will deprive those who resort to voting malpractices of victory in the election, he said.

SRI LANKA

India Responds to Colombo Statement on Bhagat Remarks

BK081109 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 8 Mar 86

[Text] The Indian response to Colombo's reply to External Affairs Minister Bali Ram Bhagat's recent parliamentary statement had been handed on Thursday to High Commissioner Bernard Tillakaratne in New Delhi, according to All India Radio. The text of the statement, which Indian official said was constructive, has not been released.

Colombo said the Indian paper needed intensive study. High Commissioner J.N. Dixit, Delhi's envoy here who was in the Indian capital for consultations with his government for the past several days, is due in Colombo today.

Meanwhile, Sri Lanka's high commissioner in New Delhi, Bernard Tillakaratna, will arrive in Colombo today for consultations with the government.

Indian Envoy Meets President

BK101156 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] President Jayewardene yesterday had an hour-long meeting with the Indian High Commissioner, J.N. Dixit, who said he had conveyed the assessment and anxieties of the prime minister of India about the current status of the national question. Mr Dixit said the president, who had been good enough to grant him an immediate appointment following his return from New Delhi on Saturday, had given him a patient hearing. In addition to giving Colombo's response to the matters immediately on hand, the president had also told the high commissioner that a formal response would be conveyed to the government through High Commissioner Bernard Tillakaratne, who is now in town.

Asked about the prospects of a visit to Colombo by Foreign Secretary Romesh Bhandari, Mr Dixit said President Jayewardene had told him that the original invitation stood and Mr Bhandari was free to come whenever he wished. The high commissioner said he had no idea about dates for such a visit.

Meanwhile, a text of India's response to a statement by Colombo which protested against certain allegations made by the Indian external affairs minister, B. R. Bhagat, has been made public. The statement conveys India's dismay and regret over the tenor of the note sent by Sri Lanka. It said the Government of India has traditionally close and cordial ties with Sri Lanka and has been exerting itself tirelessly to assist in bringing about a political solution to the ethnic problem in Sri Lanka. The Government of India has pointed out that the present attitudes and policies of the Sri Lanka Government would only mean the prolongation of the agony and a deepening of the tragedy faced by Sri Lanka and its people.

With regard to the cancellation of the Indian participation in the Asia Cup cricket tournament, which begins in Sri Lanka on the 30th of this month, there have been no new developments.

Minister Asks 'Terrorists' To Find Solution

BK091149 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 9 Mar 86

[Text] The minister of national security, Lalith Athulathmudali, told the Sri Lanka Broadcasting Corporation that the government is prepared to stop the bombing of the terrorist camps in the north if the terrorists abandon the smuggling of weapons and trained persons from south India into Sri Lanka. He said that this proposal has been placed before the terrorists in effort to prevent the killing of people and to safeguard innocent lives as far as possible in accordance with the Buddhist teaching.

The minister observed that not every Tamil is a terrorist and stressed that the government should win over the confidence of Tamil population. Mr Athulathmudali added that the terrorists themselves have conceded they have no place in the [words indistinct] by them. The minister expressed the hope that [words indistinct] the situation which prevail in the Jaffna peninsula as well. He added the time has now come for us to act with prudence without being swayed by external events.

The minister has called on the terrorists to come forward to find a political solution to the ethnic problem.

Tamil Refugees Start Returning Home From India

BK081119 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 8 Mar 86

[Text] For the first time in months groups of Tamil refugees have started returning to Sri Lanka from southern India because of bad conditions in the camps and adverse climate. The *HINDUSTAN TIMES* newspaper said yesterday that official apathy, inadequate allowances, poor medical facilities, harassment, and looting of their belongings, and the extremely hot climate prompted the fugitives to return to Sri Lanka.

Security Forces' Clashes With Terrorists Detailed

BK071101 Colombo International Service in English 0300 GMT 7 Mar 86

[Text] A gang of five Marxist terrorists, three of them armed with machineguns, robbed rails from the Jaffna railway yesterday. Security sources told LANKA PUWATH that three other terrorists were captured by the security forces at Periankulam-Vavuniya yesterday.

Three terrorists were killed when security forces effectively repulsed an attack at (Alikamalli) in Batticaloa. On Wednesday night, the Navy intercepted a boat about 6 miles away from Kankesanthurai in the north and, when challenged, the occupants of the boat fired at the Navy vessel. The fire was returned and the entire boat caught fire and was destroyed. According to LANKA PUWATH it is believed that this boat was carrying terrorists from the EPRLF [Eelam People's Revolutionary Liberation Front] group.

Russian-Made Hand Grenade Seized

BK081115 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 8 Mar 86

[Text] Security forces captured a Russian-made hand grenade during a raid on a terrorist gang base in eastern Sri Lanka yesterday morning. Security sources told LANKA PUWATH that the raid on the home of the leader of the self-styled Marxist organization led by Uma Maheshwaran, the People's Liberation of Tamil Eelam, also resulted in the seizure of a large quantity of terrorist misinformation against the Government of Sri Lanka.

Meanwhile, the self-proclaimed Marxist theoretician of the Liberation Tigers, (Anton Balasingham), has boasted in the *GUARDIAN* of London in an interview earlier this week that the Marxist terrorists would use Soviet SAM missiles to fight Sri Lanka Air Force aircraft.

Tamil Militants Attack Irrigation Colony, Kill 8

HK101542 Hong Kong AFP in English 1537 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Colombo, March 10 (AFP) — Tamil militant separatists Monday shot dead eight farm workers and seriously injured three others in an attack on a state-run irrigation colony in the Eastern Province, security sources said.

The sources said that the attack took place at Morawewa in the province's northeastern district of Trincomalee.

They said that the militants, armed with shotguns and rifles, attacked a group of farm hands who were working in paddy fields, killing eight and seriously injuring three others.

The sources said that the attack was part of a Tamil militant campaign to frighten away Sinhalese and Moslem civilians from the Eastern Province which they want incorporated into the Northern Province as a Tamil homeland.

Khomeyni Meets With Families of POW's, MIA's, Dead

LD101353 Tehran IRNA in English 1335 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 10, IRNA — The leader of the Islamic revolution of Iran Imam Khomeyni received relatives of martyrs, POW's and those missing in action as well as some Majlis deputies from Bakhtaran and Khorasan Provinces here Monday.

At the meeting the head of the Shahid (Martyr) Foundation Hojjat ol-Eslam Mahdi Karrubi who is also the Majlis vice speaker made a speech lauding the devotion of Iranian Muslim combatants in the war fronts.

Further on Romanian Foreign Minister's Visit

Meets Energy Minister

LD101029 Tehran IRNA in English 1010 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 10, IRNA — The Romanian foreign minister, Ilie Vaduva, currently here heading a political-economic delegation, met and conferred with Minister of Energy Mohammad Taki Banki, here Monday morning.

During the meeting issues relevant to technical and economic cooperation between the two countries mainly in the field of water and electricity were discussed.

The Iranian minister also held talks with the Romanian official on the speedy completion of Iranian projects under implementation by Romanian contractors.

The Romanian foreign minister said that his government had decided to increase its financial assistance to Romanian contractors working in Iran to compensate the delay in the completion of the projects.

To this end, Vaduva said, the new energy minister of Romania is interested in visiting projects under implementation by the Romanian contractors in Iran.

Confers With Musavi

LD101224 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] According to a Central News Unit correspondent, the Romanian minister of foreign affairs this morning met and conferred with Prime Minister Musavi. Also present at the meeting were the foreign minister and prime minister's political deputy. During the meeting, the Romanian minister of foreign affairs conveyed his government's desire for an comprehensive expansion of relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran and extended to the prime minister an invitation from Romanian Prime Minister Constantin Dascalescu to visit that country. He also briefed the prime minister on the progress of his talks in Iran on political and economic issues.

The prime minister thanked the envoy for the invitation and expressed the hope to visit Romania when the opportunity presents itself. The prime minister emphasized the fundamental principles of our country's foreign policy. He said that Iran's volume of trade after the victory of the Islamic Revolution changed in favor of the Third World countries, adding that Iran will continue this same policy. Referring to the imposed war, the prime minister said that a genuine peace is only possible through the punishment of the aggressor since we intend to remain independent in a sensitive region; therefore, we must uproot aggression.

Meets With Plan, Budget Minister

LD101616 Tehran IRNA in English 1548 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 10, IRNA — Visiting Romanian Foreign Minister Ilie Vaduva met and conferred with Plan and Budget Minister Masud Raghani-Zanjani here Monday.

In the meeting Zanjani said since the victory of the 1979 Islamic Revolution, Iran has pursued a policy expanding her relations with anti-imperialist countries. "We like to continue such a policy", he added.

Zanjani said the reason why Iraqi war was imposed on Iran is that the Islamic Republic has adopted independent and anti-aggression policies.

The Romanian minister also expressed his country's interest to promote economic and commercial relations with Iran. He furthermore invited Zanjani to visit Romania.

Romania is the second biggest commercial partner of the Islamic Republic in Eastern Europe. It exports industrial, agricultural machinery, paper, cardboard and chemical materials to Iran and imports oil in return.

Montazeri Meets With Velayati, Envoys 9 Mar

LD101303 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Grand Ayatollah Montazeri met with Foreign Affairs Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati and our country's ambassadors and charge d'affaires to Asian and Oceanian countries yesterday. He thanked them for suffering the pain of being outside their homeland in such sensitive circumstances and for carrying out their various duties abroad.

He added: In the present conditions, although Islam and the revolution's main enemies are the superpowers — the former U.S. President has clearly admitted that today Islam stands in the way of U.S. interests in the world and not communism — we are not worried because the situation with regard to the superpowers is clear and the nations know it well. What is both worrisome and unfortunate is the discord among many leaders of Islamic countries who consider themselves Muslims and followers of Islam and the Koran but are practicably dependent upon the superpowers. They cooperate and are of the same mind with the United States, Israel, and all other enemies of Islam so much so that they abjectly agree to participate in the conspiracy to reduce oil prices hatched by Americans and Europeans. This drop in prices basically aims at dealing blows to the revolution

and the great nation of Iran. They sell the oil that belongs to the Muslims and the oppressed, a God-given wealth, at bargain prices. They pour it into the pockets of the superpowers at cheap prices in order to defeat revolutionary Iran.

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri, addressing the ambassadors and the charge d'affaires, stressed: Wherever you might be, you must attempt to maintain Islam and the revolution's honor by your behavior and your actions. You must neutralize the powerful propaganda against Islam and our country with all your might. You must inform other nations of the internal facts and progress made within our country in a pleasant and lively manner. You must use our youths and committed forces for this purpose.

His Excellency emphasized in conclusion: We must put our prejudices aside. If we recognize that a person is committed to Islam and the revolution and would like to serve, we must make use of him although he might have erred in the past.

Visiting Pakistani Oil Official Meets With Aqazadeh
LD081804 Tehran IRNA in English 1742 GMT 8 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 8, IRNA — Pakistan's deputy petroleum and natural resources minister, Ezharul Haq, who is currently here at the head of a delegation met and conferred with Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh here Saturday.

In the meeting Aqazadeh reiterated expansion of bilateral relations and called for a promotion of economic cooperation between Iran and Pakistan.

The Pakistani delegation is to discuss purchasing of Iranian oil with the Islamic Republic officials.

Envoy to Tripoli Meets New Libyan Foreign Minister
LD101916 Tehran IRNA in English 1818 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Tripoli, March 10, IRNA — The Islamic Republic of Iran's ambassador to Tripoli Mohammad Kazem Khonsari met here Monday with Libya's secretary of the General People's Committee for Foreign Liaison Kamil Hasan Mansur and submitted to him a congratulatory message from his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati.

In the meeting both sides conferred on important issues of the region as well as issues of mutual interest between Tehran and Tripoli.

Mr Mansur expressed thanks for the Islamic Republic's backing for Libya vis-a-vis recent threats of the imperialist U.S.A. saying that the two countries joint and revolutionary goals necessitates constant cooperation as well as exchange of views.

The Libyan official expressed hope that he could visit the Islamic Republic at the first opportunity in order to announce complete backing of his country for the Islamic Republic in the Iraqi-imposed war. He said it was necessary that Iran continues its defensive war till the Baghdad regime is overthrown.

Outgoing Syrian Envoy Meets With Chief Justice
LD082306 Tehran IRNA in English 1702 GMT 8 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 8, IRNA: Outgoing Syrian Ambassador to Tehran Ibrahim Yunis said here Saturday that Syria will continue to stand by Iran "as we have always voiced our all-out support for the Islamic Republic of Iran."

In a meeting with the chief justice, Ayatollah 'Abdolkarim Musaviardebili, the departing Syrian ambassador said that Syrian statesmen attached great importance to the expansion of cooperation and friendly ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran.

In response, the chief justice stressed that Iran and Syria have many issues in common in their fight with the U.S. and the Zionist regime.

"Today, the Islamic Republic of Iran considers issues of Syria as her own", said the chief justice, adding that he was sure that Syria shared the same view.

SAIRI Chairman Condemns GCC Reaction to Victories
GF090625 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0530 GMT 9 Mar 86

[Text] Condemning the GCC countries reaction to the recent victories of the Islamic combatants, the SAIRI chairman emphasized that any kind of service to Saddam's regime would be considered a form of animosity and people providing such service would come face to face with the oppressed Iraqi nation; the oppressed people of Iraq would never forget their action and stance.

The SAIRI chairman announced that for the Iraqi mujahidin's participation in liberating their land, a division of Val-Fajr comprised of Iraqi fighting mujahidin and revolutionaries would be established.

Kurds Explode Mines Killing 25 Iraqi Soldiers
LD081650 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 8 Mar 86

[Text] Citing a report received from reliable sources in northern Iraq, the Central News Unit says: The Iraqi Kurdish Hezbollahi peshmergas, by exploding a few mines across the path of a motorized column of the Iraqi regime's army in the (Binartah) region northeast of Mawsil Province, succeeded in destroying a command (?jeep) and a truck carrying the regime's troops. As a result, 25 troops of the Iraqi ruling regime, including two commanders of the Saddam regime's army, were killed.

'Victim' of Iraqi Chemicals Dies in London
LD090759 Tehran IRNA in English 0707 GMT 9 Mar 86

[Text] London, March 9, IRNA — The body of another Islamic combatant victim of Iraqi deployment of chemical weapon was taken to the building of the World Islamic Assembly here in a funeral ceremony attended by a large number of Iranian and

other Muslims, Saturday. The mourners chanted slogans such as 'Death to the U.S.'

Hoseyn Damghani, a 22-year-old Basij member who was injured in Iraqi chemical bombardment of Al-Faw operational theater, was dispatched to Britain for treatment two weeks ago. He died in a London hospital due to the severness of his wounds.

Excerpt for a few number of British media which have printed brief articles on the Iranian combatants injured as a result of Iraqi deployment of chemical weapons, the majority of British press have kept silence on this issue.

Even those British publications which have carried reports of the incident have not explicitly mentioned the Iraqi regime as the main engineer of these criminal acts.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Khatam ol-Anbiya' No 22

LD101127 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1036 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Communique Number 22 issued by the Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters, the combined headquarters of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and the Islamic Republic Armed Forces, reads as follows:

In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Continuing their victorious battle against the already vanquished enemy, our forces continue to inflict more blows and heavier casualties upon it. O you brave Islamic nation, O you brave and combative Iranian nation: The criminal enemy has suffered a heavy defeat during the "Val-Fajr-8" operations and has subsequently suffered heavy casualties and irreparable blows as well as great losses to its army, particularly to his special forces and his presidential guards during the past several days. The enemy is resorting to some insane measures that demonstrate the denigration and ever-increasing enfeeblement of that country's rulers.

The cornered Iraqi Navy launched a last-ditch and insane attack last night. This arose from the enfeebled Iraqi officers' lack of military strategy as well as the grave psychological blow to the Baghdad ringleaders. They tried to land some Green Beret units in one ship and several vessels and military launches at the edge of Khawr 'Abdallah. However, they were surrounded by the mighty Islamic forces and, following some intense fighting, all of them were killed.

Moreover, the Islamic combatants during a clash with two enemy battalions north of the salt lake last night succeeded in wiping them out, killing 200 and wounding hundreds of others. During these operations, our forces managed to set ablaze a large quantity of the enemy's equipment, so much so that a great many of the enemy's corpses as well as his equipment have been left behind in the operation zone.

Communique No 2405

LD101739 Tehran IRNA in English 1722 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 10, IRNA — Exchange of artillery fire between Iran's Muslim forces and Iraqi troops continued in the western fronts Sunday raging somewhat more heavier in Nosud and Mehran, it was reported Monday.

The exchanges resulted in at least 10 Iraqi soldiers being killed or wounded and several gun emplacements and observation posts destroyed.

Communique Number 2405 of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces said heavy artillery fire of Iran's Muslim combatants dealt fatal blows to Iraqi forces in the northwestern fronts especially in Panjwin where major sections of Iraqi positions were pounded.

The movement of Iraqi infantry and armoured units as well as their trucks carrying troops in the northwestern fronts were checked and shelled by Iranian Muslim troops who also halted enemy engineering operations in the forefronts, according to the communique.

In the southern fronts, the communique said heavy artillery duels continued and Iranian artillery fire silenced the fire of Iraqi tanks in Jofeyr.

The Joint Staff communique said Iranian artillery fire prevented the transport and reinforcement of Iraqi tanks in Kani-Sheykh and elsewhere in areas overlooking Qasr-e Shirin halted Iraqi soldiers attempting to fortify their positions.

All but one Iraqi aerial attacks on the city of Abadan Sunday were thwarted. The one war plane managed to bombard the city destroying some houses. The city was also shelled by Iraqi forces Sunday.

Peaceful Coexistence With Gulf States Advocated

GF071412 Tehran Television Service in Arabic 0930 GMT 7 Mar 86

[From "The World in a Week" program: "The Good of All Area Countries Lies in Peaceful Coexistence, But Will They Listen?"]

[Text] Brothers and sisters, the Islamic Republic continues to advocate peaceful coexistence in the Persian Gulf as the best guarantee for the consolidation of security and stability and the prevention of interference by foreign states in this important and strategic part of the world.

However, regrettably — very regrettably — the concept of peaceful coexistence has not been met with any positive response by some Gulf countries which continue to insist on their erroneous theory based on the principle of equilibrium between the conflicting axes. The foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Oman, the UAE, and Bahrain met in Riyadh for 3 days within the GCC framework. At the end of the conference the six ministers issued a statement reaffirming their support for the aggressor regime of Iraq. The statement condemned the recent

offensive launched by the Islamic forces, and emphasized military cooperation among the six Gulf states to face possible military developments in the war between the Islamic Republic and the rancorous regime of Baghdad.

Although the statement underlined the issues of peace and stability and the desire of the six Gulf states to play a role in ending the war, the statement did not make any reference to the latest crimes committed by the Saddam regime in shelling civilian areas, downing a civilian aircraft of the Iranian airline company Aseman, or using internationally prohibited chemical bombs. The statement did not say anything new. It is a repetition of past statements and reiterates stands that are 4 years old. The moves of Gulf states on all levels are motivated by one stand: Such a stand stems from the same theory that possessed the minds of Gulf leaders prior to the outbreak of the war and after the triumph of the Islamic revolution in Iran. The theory of Gulf security is based on the creation of a counter force that can face the Islamic revolution and, as a result of the presence of such a force in the Persian Gulf, a balance will be established under which all the Gulf states can live. The protagonists of such a theory are of course U.S. experts who have chosen the Saddam regime as the counter force to the blessed Islamic revolution. Hence the support of the Gulf states for the Saddam regime and their great fear of its defeat in the war — because some Gulf rulers believe that the defeat of the Saddam regime will mean the collapse of the Gulf security equation.

The war launched by the Saddam regime was one of the links in the theory: It aimed to ovethrow or to weaken the Islamic revolution. In the face of such an aggressive theory the Islamic Republic, after the war broke out, called for peaceful coexistence within the framework of Islamic brotherhood and without any military balances and polarization of the conflict. We do not know why some Gulf leaders still maintain principles that were created by Americans who were inspired by the conflict between the Eastern and Western camps. Can peace be established on the side of war?

Afghan Mujahidin Attack Herat Military Airport

LD101347 Tehran IRNA in English 1332 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 10, IRNA — The Afghan mujahidin launched a missile attack on the military airport of Herat on February 13.

According to reports from the London-based agency AFGHAN PRESS a helicopter at the runway was destroyed by a missile in the attack and two oil tankers blasted.

No report of casualties in the base have been received.

FBIS DAILY REPORT

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

12 MARCH 1986

French Hostages in Lebanon

The Iranian agency IRNA accused France of preparing a military response to the taking of French hostages in Lebanon, claiming that French commandos are preparing for "an orgy of kidnapping" of Lebanese Hizballah officials. In Beirut, Shi'ite cleric Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah called for the release of the 4-man French television crew kidnapped 8 March, according to AFP, which described Fadlallah as Hizballah's "spiritual figurehead." As for the French diplomatic effort, Beirut's *AL-NAHAR* reported that France has authorized its envoys to agree to a deal involving the following conditions for the hostages' release: a French pledge to reduce the prison terms of the group that attempted to assassinate former Iranian Prime Minister Shahpur Bakhtiar in Paris; safeguards from Iraq concerning the lives of two Iraqi dissidents recently extradited from Paris to Baghdad; Syrian guarantees that France will honor its obligations if the hostages are released.

Israel

Tabah Talks — The Egyptian delegation has brought "positive answers" on the issue of normalization of relations, ambassador to Egypt Moshe Sason stated in remarks reported by IDF radio following the resumption of the Tabah talks in Herzliyya 12 March.

Policy on Syria — Commenting on Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad's current "extremism," Prime Minister Shim'on Peres stressed that Israel's response to threats will be to "fight back," adding that "our tone may be restrained but our might is great," Jerusalem radio reported. Peres also revealed that diplomatic efforts are underway, through France and the United States, to get Syria to permit its 4,000 Jews to emigrate, according to the radio.

Iran-Iraq War

An Iranian military communique cited by IRNA announced that Iranian planes raided an Iraqi command headquarters deep inside southern Iraq 12 March. Iraqi warplanes raided Khark Island the previous day, according to an Iraqi communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. As for aircraft losses, an Iraqi spokesman cited by INA announced that Iraqi air defenses downed an Iranian F-4 over the Al-Faw area 11 March, while an Iranian communique reported by IRNA stated that an Iraqi helicopter was shot down in the same area.

Meanwhile, the Kuwaiti prime minister inspected military positions in Bubiyan Island and other north eastern border points, KUNA disclosed. In another development, Kuwait reminded Iran of its responsibility for any possible damage to the Kuwaiti Embassy in Tehran, KUNA reported, noting that this followed demonstrations outside the embassy by Iranian students and trade unionists shouting "unjust slogans" criticizing Kuwait and other Arab Gulf states.

Iranian Relations With Romania

The Romanian foreign minister met with President 'Ali Khamene'i in Tehran 11 March, Tehran radio reported, adding that the minister gave Khamene'i a letter from Romanian President Nicolae Ceausescu emphasizing the possibility of expanding bilateral cooperation. Commenting on the Romanian delegation's visit, Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati told the radio that there is "a considerable degree of agreement" between the two countries on foreign relations issues.

Sudan

The clandestine Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army (SPLA) reported an appeal by the SPLA deputy leader for all civilians to evacuate towns in the war zone. He said the SPLA will protect civilians who flee to the rural areas, but warned that anyone who cooperates with the Khartoum regime will be dealt with according to the laws of "revolutionary struggle."

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Karmal Greets Mongolian Leader on Birthday

LD110631 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0442 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Kabul, March 10, BAKHTAR — It is a pleasure that the existing good and fraternal relations between the parties, states and peoples of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and the People's Republic of Mongolia further develops and grows in the interest of peace, social progress and consolidation of the position of progressive forces of the world.

This is said in a mesage sent by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) and president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA to J. Batmonh, first secretary of the Central Committee of Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party on his 60th birthday.

The effective strides taken by the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party for the progress of the country of the People's Republic of Mongolia and the warding off of the conspiracies of reaction, imperialism and hegemonism, are praised by all progressive forces of the world, the message says.

The message expresses wish for the further victories and successes of the Mongolian people under the leadership of the Mongolian People's Revolutionary Party.

Karmal, Delegation to CPSU Congress Return

LD090755 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0426 GMT 9 Mar 86

[Text] Kabul, March 8, BAKHTAR: Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, PDPA, and president of the Revolutionary Council of the DRA, who headed a high-delegation of the PDPA, to the 27th CPSU Congress in Moscow, returned home with his entourage

The Afghan delegation was in Moscow at the invitation of the Central Committee of the CPSU, to participate in the 27th CPSU Congress.

Dost Continues Meetings With UN Special Envoy

LD111920 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Continuing of his talks from yesterday Minister of Foreign Affairs Shah Mohammad Dost met twice today in the morning and afternoon with Diego Cordovez at the Foreign Ministry.

According to another report, the minister of foreign affairs gave a dinner in honor of the envoy of the UN secretary general at 1830 in the Foreign Ministry reception hall.

A number of high ranking Foreign Ministry officials, members of Diego Cordovez's delegation, head of the UN Development Program in the DRA Samendo Banerjee, and a number of staff were at the dinner.

NFF Official Leads Delegation to Libyan Conference

LD111758 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1330 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Abdorrahim Hatef chairman of the DRA National Fatherland Front [NFF] Central Council, left today for Libya at the invitation of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah, at the head of a delegation of the DRA Peace, Solidarity, and Friendship Organization. The delegation is to attend the conference of solidarity with the Libyan people against the aggression of imperialism, especially U.S. imperialism, which is to be held in Tripoli 15 March.

Feda Muhammad Dehneshin, first deputy chairman of the NFF Central Council; Satar Pordeli, chairman of the DRA Trade Union Central Council; secretary of the DRA Peace, Solidarity, and Friendship Organization; deputy head of protocol at the Foreign Affairs Ministry; and Abdullah al-Huni, secretary to People's Bureau of the Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah in Kabul, were present at Kabul International Airport to see the Afghan delegation off.

Forces Launch 'Major Operation' in Panjshir

HK111204 Hong Kong AFP in English 1119 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Islamabad, March 11 (AFP) — Soviet-Afghan troops launched a major operation on rebel strongholds in the northern Panjshir Valley last week, Western diplomats reported here today.

The diplomats said the troops, including crack Soviet units, attempted to penetrate the valley from its lower reaches, encountering a mujahedeen caravan at Unaba. After two days bitter fighting "a number" of guerrillas were seized with their weapons.

The diplomats said Soviet jets bombed Unaba and looted village, [as received] adding that a number of Afghan soldiers were also killed in misdirected raids.

In the capital, Kabul, there were several rocket attacks last week, but diplomats had no details.

Air activity reportedly increased at Kabul airport because the situation had deteriorated in western Herat and southeastern Kandahar Provinces, where clashes spread into the towns, the diplomats said quoting a non-Western colleague in Kabul.

A traveller's account quoted by one Western diplomat said a Soviet force was sandwiched between mujahedeen and some 600 Afridi tribesmen "trained and instructed by the Soviets".

The Soviets had wanted to use the Afridis in fighting in Nazian, across the border from Pakistan, but the tribesmen "interested in money and weapons and not fighting" suggested the Russians should lead the operation. [sentence as received]

The Soviets, according to diplomats, found themselves trapped when the tribesmen opened fire on them and disappeared in the mountains, proabably crossing to Pakistan.

Other diplomatic sources did not confirm the report nor did resistance sources here.

Commentary on U.S. Attempts To 'Transform' UN Policy
LD110627 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0433 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Kabul, March 10, BAKHTAR — A political observer of BAKHTAR writes:

The United States is striving to transform the policy of the United Nations Organisation (UNO) in the interest of Washington through political blackmail and does not refrain from anything to achieve this end.

The U.S. Department of State has resorted to another irresponsible action in order to jeopardize this reliable international organization and to diminish its world status. That is, it has asked a forty percent reduction in the number of Soviet diplomats in the UN Organisation.

Washington administration has adopted the decision at a time when the process of the normalisation of relations between the Soviet Union and the United States is in progress in the interest of peace and disarmament.

The talks held between Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and Ronald Reagan, president of the United States in Geneva, are an effort made by the Soviet Union for improving the relations between East and West.

The decision of Reagan administration is directed towards undermining the relations between the two countries. The U.S. Administration which finds the UN decisions to the detriment of its aggressive policies have resorted to various types of blackmails and sabotage against the UN Organisations. The United States is the first UN member country which withdrew from UNESCO.

UNESCO, being a branch of UN Organisation, follows an anti-imperialist policy in the interest of developing countries and is seeking to create a just and new international information and economic order for ensuring peace and security in the world.

These are all the reasons which prompted the United States to withdraw from the United Nations. [sentence as received]

Another hostile action by Washington administration is the imposition of restrictions on the movement of diplomats of the countries whose policies are not to the taste of Washington. This action of Reagan administration runs counter to the US agreement with the UN Organisation regarding the establishment of its headquarters in New York and is contemptuous to the UN Charter.

On September 15, 1985 and then on January 6, the U.S. Administration made another contemptuous decision asking some full-right [as received] members of the UN Organisation not to move further than 25 miles from the UN headquarters.

The adoption of such a position by the U.S. Administration is inconsistent to the UN Charter.

These [word indistinct] of the U.S. Administration has been denounced by the different countries of the world.

Spokesman Disputes Map Showing Island in India

BK100500 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] A spokesman of the Foreign Ministry says all available (?charter) and their interpretation indicate that (Salfetty) Island rightfully belongs to Bangladesh. The matter has been under discussion with the Indian Government, and both sides are committed to a peaceful and negotiated settlement. Referring to a report in Dhaka daily regarding publication of a map by the Oxford University Press from New Delhi showing (Salfetty) as part of India, he asserted that it did not conform to the factual position. He regretted that such an error should have occurred in a map published by the Oxford University Press. The matter has been take up with the University Press.

Polish Deputy Foreign Minister Visits Dhaka

Arrives in Dhaka

BK101702 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] The Polish deputy minister for foreign affairs, Dr Jan Majenski, arrived in Dhaka today on a 4-day official visit to Bangladesh. Talking to newsmen at the Zia International Airport, he said his country's relations with Bangladesh are very good but he wants to improve them further. Trade relations between the two countries are also very satisfactory. The Polish minister said during his visit he will try to fill the gap that exists between the two countries in their economic and political relations. He indicated that Poland is interested to elevate its mission in Dhaka form the existing level of charge d'affaires to ambassadorial level.

Official talks between Bangladesh and Poland will be held in Dhaka tomorrow. The Bangladesh side at the talks will be headed by the foreign secretary, Mr Faruq Ahmed Chowdhury During his stay, the Polish minister will call on Deputy Chief Martial Law Administrator and Minister for Industries Air Vice Marshal Sultan Mahmud, Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury, and Commerce Minister Kazi Zafar Ahmed.

Talks With Chowdhury

BK111431 Dhaka Overseas Service in English
1230 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Poland will upgrade its mission in Dhaka from the existing charge d'affaires level to full ambassadorial level to increase bilateral economic and political contacts. The Polish intention to raise the level of the diplomatic representation in Bangladesh was conveyed by the visiting Polish deputy minister for foreign affairs, Dr Jan Majenski, in his formal talks with Foreign Secretary Faruq Ahmed Chowdhury in Dhaka today.

After the talks, the foreign secretary said the two sides had a satisfactory meeting that focused mainly on bilateral relation, with particular emphasis on economic cooperation. The two countries found trade relations between them satisfactory and could be further improved. The foreign secretary said during the talks, both sides briefed each other with their respective views and decisions on different international and regional issues, particularly the situation in Europe and the East-West relation. Bangladesh side noted with satisfaction Poland's interest in developing relations with the Third World as well as Bangladesh. Both the countries also decided to hold political consultations on a regular basis and make efforts to [word indistinct] bilateral economic and trade cooperation.

Earlier, the visiting Polish deputy foreign minister paid a courtesy call on Foreign Minister Humayun Rashid Chowdhury and discussed bilateral relations. The Polish minister extended an invitation to the foreign minister to visit Poland. The foreign minister accepted the invitation and the visit will be fixed at a mutually convenient date.

Facilities Given to Political Parties for Elections

BK111429 Dhaka Overseas Service in English
1230 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] The Bangladesh Government has decided to give certain facilities to those political parties which will put up at least 30 candidates in the forthcoming parliamentary election. The chairman or convenor and secretary general or secretary of such parties will get the facilities with effect from the scrutiny day [23 March] and will continue up to 7 days after the elections. Arrangements for publicity through radio and television will be made for such party officials. A telephone will be installed for the party, subject to availability of telecommunication facility. They will be issued a first class passenger pass in railway, a pass free of cost to travel by plane and a first class pass free of cost to travel by inland water transport. They will also be given free accommodation at circuit houses or government rest houses. A government transport with a driver will also be supplied.

Navy, Police Storm Vessels To Quell Sailors' Strike

HK100837 Hong Kong AFP in English 0815 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Dhaka, March 10 (AFP) — Bangladesh Navy and police personnel have stormed several state vessels and held at least two officers in a bid to quell a sailors' strike in the southeastern port of Chittagong, reports said Monday

Following the breakdown of talks between the Bangladesh Shipping Corp. (BSC) and the Bangladesh Marine Officers' Association, the BSC ordered the sailors "to resume work or quit," then Navy and police personnel raided several vessels Sunday the reports said. At least 50 sailors were forced to leave their vessels, and the association president, Khairul Anam, and another officer were detained, the reports said.

Some reports said that in a similar raid at the southwestern port of Chalna at least 60 sailors were forced to remain in their cabins on three ships. More than 600 crew and officers of the state corporation began an indefinite strike for higher wages on March 1.

BSC sources said the authorities had arranged to replace the striking officers and crew with civilian mariners and Navy crew.

Security Forces Kill Pakistanis Crossing Border

HK120802 Hong Kong AFP in English 0755 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] New Delhi, March 12 (AFP) — Indian border security forces have killed two people who attempted to cross over the border from Pakistan to the neighbouring Indian state of Punjab, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) news agency said Wednesday.

The agency said the two were Pakistani nationals. They were killed in two separate incidents on Monday night and Tuesday morning.

PTI said that the deaths brought to four the number of Pakistanis killed by Indian security forces at the border since Saturday.

In one incident early Tuesday, the agency said, four Pakistani nationals were challenged by a border patrol in Punjab as they attempted to cross over into India.

PTI said that the trespassers opened fire and that the security forces replied killing one person. The others managed to escape, the agency added.

The agency gave no details about the other incidents.

Assam Protests Over Meghalaya Expulsion of Nepalese

HK071204 Hong Kong AFP in English 1140 GMT 7 Mar 86

[Text] Gauhati, India, March 7 (AFP) — India's Meghalaya State has expelled more than 5,000 Nepalese coal mine workers as unwanted foreign settlers in the past week, causing an inter-state row, official sources said here Friday.

The Nepalese had worked for more than 20 years in privately-owned mines as cheap labour but had no papers to prove their citizenship, the sources said.

About 1,000 of the Nepalese arrived in this capital of Assam State in trucks escorted by Meghalaya police earlier this week and were later taken by the Assamese police to Srirampur, a border village in west Bengal State.

The rest were believed to have gone into hiding in Assam, the sources said.

The chief of police in Meghalaya, M.I.S. Aiyer, told AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE by telephone that "it was a standing government order to expel Nepalese who had entered Meghalaya without the restricted area permit (RAP)."

All foreigners entering northeast India have to obtain the RAP. Mr. Aiyer said, "We identified and verified 1,056 Nepalese without the RAP and 56 Bangladesh nationals without any valid documents in the collieries and expelled them from the state."

The expulsion has led to protests from the Assam government, which has its own foreign settler problem, and the joint action committee of all-Assam Nepali organisations, which looks after the interests of Nepalese in north east India.

An Assam police spokesman said his government had not been consulted by the Meghalaya authorities. "Our attention was drawn to the expulsion after hundreds of displaced Nepalese workers suddenly started arriving in our state," he said.

Some of the Nepalese had to leave their wives and children behind as they were forced from the collieries and dumped into trucks, a spokesman for the joint action committee said.

The spokesman described the move as "inhuman" and said the committee had sent telegrams on the matter to Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Home Minister S.B. Chavan. "We are also seeking help from the Nepalese Government," he said.

Danish Prince Henrik Arrives in Delhi 8 Mar

HK080736 Hong Kong AFP in English 0659 GMT 8 Mar 86

[Text] New Delhi, March 7 (AFP) — Prince Henrik of Denmark arrived here Saturday for a six-day visit at the head of a Red Cross delegation.

The prince was welcomed on his arrival by the Danish Ambassador Kaj Bagoo, and the Chief of Protocol Salman Haider.

Prince Henrik is to study the work of the Red Cross in India and visit some hospitals, Danish sources said.

He is also scheduled to call on Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi and Vice President R. Venkataraman durign his stay.

Antiterrorist Police Position Created in Punjab

BK110358 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] In Punjab, a new post of inspector general for crime and operation has been created to supervise and coordinate antiterrorist operations in the state and take effective and continous action for the maintenance of law and order. The (?sector) scheme — introduced in the border districts of Gurdaspur, Amritsar, Ferozepore, and parts of Kapurthala and Hoshiarpur Districts recently — has also been put under his command.

Meanwhile, two unidentified gunmen shot at and seriously injured one person at a place near Phagwara last evening. The injured has been removed to a Ludhiana hospital.

Commentary on Timetable for Sri Lanka Solution

BK071415 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 7 Mar 86

[K. Dharamrajan commentary: "Sri Lanka — Time Is Running Out"]

[Text] Months have rolled by after bloody months. There has been no sign of a letup in the bitter violence in Sri Lanka. Fleeing what was once an isle of paradise, minority Tamils have taken refuge in neighboring south India, some 125,000 of them — no small number. A concern for India has been obvious, as it has

picked up what has become an inevitable mediatory role. Behind the quest for a peaceful political settlement is an earnest neighborly desire to create conditions to pave way for early return of the refugees in honor and safety. Indisputably, there is a clear sense of urgency in the situation.

Hence it was that India's external affairs minister, Mr Bali Ram Bhagat, warned the other day "time is fast running out." Will Colombo, to which the warning is directed, pay heed without dragging its feet? Thus is the big question. The question was posed again and yet again by agitated members in Indian Parliament. They had reasons to feel difficult [as heard], for President Jayewardene has rebuffed proposals by the Tamil United Liberation Front for a political settlement in their entity in recent time. It was in the aftermath of what New Delhi regarded as negative and rigid response of President Jayewardene that the Indian mediator, Mr Romesh Bhandari, postponed his scheduled Colombo visit early in February. Soon after, Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi put the issue in the right perspective. He demanded that Sri Lanka should let him know whether India should continue with its good offices. This was read by Sri Lanka watchers to mean that Colombo should demonstrate its interest in political settlement in a constructive manner rather than seek a military solution while using Indian mediation to gain credibility.

Thereupon, in a formal statement to Sri Lankan Parliament, Mr Jayewardene spoke of his government's commitment to find "a peaceful solution within the concept of a unitary state." At the same time, he made it known he would not go beyond the means of a 6 months old working paper containing Colombo's proposals.

The new Jayewardene stance predictably evoked strong public reaction in India. Further, analysts linked what they termed Jayewardene's intransigent position on negotiations to a feeling on his part that the Tamil militants were losing out to his devastatingly equipped troops.

That, then, is the setting up for Mr Bhagat's warning that time is running out. In a policy that reflected India's strongest attitude yet [words indistinct] all the external affairs minister said the action by the Sri Lanka security forces went beyond the realm of civlized behavior and had the elements of genocide. Calling it a breakdown of credibility on the part of the Sri Lanka Government, Mr Bhagat said Colombo professed peace on the one hand and pursued a military solution on the other. He backed up his condemnation of genocide with an assertion that India will raise the behavior of Sri Lanka's security forces before the UN Human Rights Commission, which is now in session in Geneva.

Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi has said that the Sri Lanka Government has now come forward with a new paper or set of proposals and expressed the hope it will be a move forward. New Delhi's own new Sri Lanka policy was enunciated by Mr Bhagat when he told parliament that India is now for an action plan with a short timeframe of 1 month or so. The plan is to have three basic elements — independent inquiry into the killings of civilians, delegations of more powers to provincial councils, and maintenance of regional demographic proportions in the troubled island. This is part of India's well known policy of seeking a peaceful political settlement within a sovereign Sri Lanka.

President, Prime Minister Meet Omani Representative

BK101641 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] The special representative of the sultan of Oman, Yusuf al-'Alawi 'Abdallah, called on President Mohammad Ziaul Haq in Islamabad today and discussed matters of common interest with him, including bilateral relations. The president later hosted a luncheon in his honor.

The special representative also met with Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo in Rawalpindi and discussed recent developments in the region and bilateral relations. He conveyed a message of best wishes and goodwill from the sultan of Oman to the prime minister, who also asked him to convey his best wishes to Sultan Qabus.

Democratic Party Official on Direct Talks With DRA

GF121003 Islamabad THE MUSLIM in English 7 Mar 86 p 8

[Bureau report]

[Excerpts] Peshawar, March 6 — The National Democratic Party's [NDP] Pakhtunkhwa President, Muhammad Afzal Khan has demanded immediate recognition of the DRA regime in Afghanistan and holding of direct talks with Kabul to resolve the Afghan issue.

Addressing a press conference here on Thursday after chairing the party's provincial Working Committee meeting, he said Pakistan must adopt an independent foreign policy to reduce the risks to the country's security. To achieve this end, Afzal Khan said the first move should be to improve relations with our neighbours, especially India, Afghanistan and Soviet Union. He alleged that Pakistan's external relations options were circumscribed due to American influences. The NDP leader said the dangerous game being played on the Pakhtun soil could only bring misery and destruction for the people living here. He said the masses needed peace in order to progress and prosper.

The NDP leader described the situation in Gadoon-Amzai area as explosive and urged the Government not to use force to stop the people from opium cultivation. He said it was a national problem and the growers were justified in demanding alternative sources of income in return for a ban on opium cultivation. Afzal Khan asked the rulers to solve the issue in a peaceful manner and to refrain from making mistakes like the ones it committed in Mardan and in Khyber Agency as it had to concede defeat on both these occasions.

Editorial on Indian Aid to Afghanistan Forces

GF111344 Lahore NAWA-E WAQT in Urdu 7 Mar 86 p 3

[Editorial: "Indian Aid for Karmal Forces"]

[Text] During a press interview which included foreign correspondents, a high-ranking leader of the "Hizb-e Eslami Afghanistan" Party, His Excellency Golboddin Hekmatiar, affirmed that India has aided the Soviet-established Karmal regime in Afghanistan. Elaborating on his response, he stated that India has trained Karmal forces not only in Afghanistan, but in India as well. He indicated that Indian military advisers are working in the wireless centers at Qandahar, Jalalabad, and Gardeys to help the Soviet command, the Afghanistan intelligence service "KHAD," and the Karmal forces in transmitting their messages. Moreover the mines being planted in the roads used by the Afghan mujahidin have also been supplied by India.

This statement of His Excellency Hekmatiar is not a new revelation nor was it a surprise to anyone when he said that in view of India's hostile attitude he did not expect any good from the Indian side. He said that the freedom-loving world, particularly the Nonaligned Movement, should take notice of such an attitude. In the nonaligned foreign ministers' meetings held in Delhi, which was followed by the nonaligned summit, several resolutions were passed (with the general agreement of India) concerning the situation in Afghanistan. Similarly a huge majority in the UN General Assembly every year passes similar resolutions on the question of Afghanistan. However, India openly violates them without the least hesitation. Afghanistan is not only an ancient, independent, and sovereign Muslim country, which has traditionally remained nonaligned, but it is also counted among the founders of the Nonaligned Movement. Of course, it is not a secret that India, despite its claims of being nonaligned, is counted among the lackeys and the servile followers of the Soviet Union.

The United Nations, the ICO, and Nonaligned Movement should end their connivance now that His Excellency Hekmatiar has revealed the extent to which the Indian regime cooperates with the Karmal Government. When the problem of Afghanistan is debated in the UN General Assembly, India abstains in the voting to show the world that it is a nonaligned country, but when it expresses its general agreement on the resolutions passed by the nonaligned foreign ministers and in the nonaligned summits, its open support for the Karmal regime established by the invading Soviet forces, amounts to hypocrisy. This should not be tolerated.

Former Afghan King Speaks on Future of Country

GF111122 Karachi JASARAT in Urdu 9 Mar 86 p 1, 8

[Text] London, 7 Mar (Afghan agency) — The former ruler of Afghanistan, Muhammad Zahir Shah, said that the fate of Pakistan and Afghanistan is the same, and that gain and loss is the same; the territorial integrity of Pakistan has a deep influence on the independence of Afghanistan. In an interview in Rome where he is in exile, he said that to safeguard their religion, way of life, and homeland there is nothing for Afghans except armed resistance. He said that the Afghan people will continue to resist until they get their independence and completely wipe out the Soviet aggression. He added that the Soviets have completely misunderstood the Afghan people who will not accept anything except their complete independence. Responding to a question on the indirect talks held under UN auspices, he said that the real parties to the problem are the mujahidin and the Soviet Union and neither is directly present at the talks.

Asked about his own future, he said he has no plans to return to Afghanistan as king. He is totally devoted to the Afghanistan crusade. A similar statement in the past was wrongly intepreted. He is therefore very cautious now as to what he says. He will not say anything until the Afghan mujahidin ask him to. If the Afghan mujahidin ask him to assist them, he would willingly. He stressed that he does not want to become a king or a ruler of Afghanistan, and for this reason he is silent now so that he is not misunderstood again and thus harm the Afghanistan crusade. Praising the current unity among the Afghan mujahidin he said: This is a "participation coalition," and can lead to a complete union. He said that victory of the crusade depended on complete unity. Without complete unity, the Afghan resistance cannot reach the final stages of victory.

Praising the sympathy shown by the Afghan people during the resistance, King Zahir Shah said: Pakistani people have another bright example in the history of the Muslim nation. The way they and the Government of Pakistan have given refuge to the 3 million war-stricken and Soviet oppressed Afghan women, children, and old men will be remembered until the end of the world. The endless sacrifices offered by the people and the Government of Pakistan have strengthened the religious and historical relations between Afghanistan and Pakistan. This will have a positive effect on the future history of the region.

King Zahir Shah applauded the interest of the Islamic countries in the Afghanistan crusade and also the efforts made in the international level to end the Soviet aggression. He added that the Muslim countries should always be ready to strive for the independence of Afghanistan. If, he said, the Afghan resistance fails in the end, it will bring along with it a dismal era of servitude for the Islamic world and this time the era will be worse than the past one.

Students Burn U.S. Flag, Protest Gulf Support for Iraq

LD111628 Tehran IRNA in English 1512 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 11, IRNA — University students and workers marched under rain in Tehran Tuesday to protest Kuwaiti and Saudi Arabia's support of the Iraqi war effort and called for revolutionary measures against the two Persian Gulf countries.

The protestors, including a large number of women gathered in front of the U.S. spy den (embassy) where they burnt the American flag and listened to a militant Majlis deputy.

The Islamic Republic has recently voiced grave concern over the political and military support of several Persian Gulf states for the Iraqi war machine.

Reports say Kuwait and Saudi Arabia sell oil on behalf of Iraq, and allow the use of their ports for the unloading of Iraqi bound military hardware.

The two countries recently issued a communique calling for a political solution to the imposed Iraqi war and asked Iran to pull back its troops from Iraqi soil.

Deputy Hadi Ghafari said "I had called on the organizers to turn the demo towards the Kuwaiti and Saudi Embassies" but one organizer said they decided to hold the meeting in front of the former embassy after consultations.

Ghafari said "rulers of the region should not play with fire. They understand no diplomacy nor political activity. We must speak to them in their own language".

Amid chants of "Saddam commits crimes, for Fahd and Kuwait to support" and eight point statement was issued calling for revolutionary measures against the two countries.

The statement called on Iran's military combatants to confiscate oil tankers in the Persian Gulf that carry oil sold on behalf of the Iraqi regime.

The studenis said the oil wells of the region would be put at risk by the revolutionaries of those countries if their governments continue to cooperate with the Islamic Republic's five-year-old war enemy.

Ghafari made an explicit statement that Iran had a different policy towards other Persian Gulf countries. "We must make distinction between the sheikhs of the Persian Gulf. The policy of the United Arab Emirates is different from that of Kuwait. We must accept this".

A group of protestors who were covering their heads apparently to hide their identification said they were from Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Bahrain.

Similar demonstrations were held in northwestern city of Tabriz where the students called on the Foreign Ministry to take action against what they called "the plots of the agents of world arrogance" a reference to the superpowers.

The Tehran gathering was organized by the powerful Islamic Association of Students and the Workers House, a central organization of factory workers councils.

French Commandos Said Preparing 'Orgy of Kidnapping'

LD111830 Tehran IRNA in English 1758 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran March 11, IRNA — In an effort to combat the Islamic resistance movement in Lebanon, French commandos are said to be gearing up for an orgy of kidnapping of officials of the Lebanese Hizballah Party.

Radio France monitored here in its Tuesday's broadcast intimated that another method of state terrorism on the part of the Paris government in violation of Lebanese sovereignty was the 'bombardment of military training centers' of the Islamic Jihad organization, which happens to be a national liberation organization defending their homeland.

A western news agency bureau in Beirut recently received pictures of French hostage, Michel Seurat who is said to have been executed.

No visible wounds were apparent on his body, however, and there is hope against hope that he is still alive, the broadcast noted.

Meanwhile, Iran has denied a French envoy a visa to the country on the ground that the French hostage issue does not concern it.

Further on Romanian Foreign Minister's Visit

Meets President Khamene'i

LD111848 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] The Romanian minister of foreign affairs, now visiting Tehran at the head of a political delegation, met with President Khamene'i today. During the meeting, the Romanian foreign minister, conveyed warmest greetings from Nicolae Ceausescu, president of Romania, and handed our president a written message from Ceausescu emphasizing the possibility of expanding Iranian-Romanian cooperation. The message also contained an official invitation to Mr Khamene'i to pay a friendly visit to Romania.

Referring to the profound changes in Iran following the victory of the Islamic revolution, which have prepared the conditions for expanding bilateral relations between the two countries, he then conveyed to Mr Khamene'i President Ceausescu's anxiety about the current world situation, the arms race between the superpowers, the increasing dangers of a nuclear war, and the securing of the independence and freedom of nations without interference from foreign countries. He emphasized the need for the withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan and for that country's independence and the Afghan people's right to self-determination.

Then Mr Khamene'i, expressing thanks and welcoming the renewed invitation from President Nicolae Ceausescu to visit

that country, expressed hope that he will be able to visit Romania at an appropriate opportunity in the future. Expressing the Islamic Republic of Iran's readiness to expand cooperation and bilateral relations between Iran and Romania, the president referred to the expansion of these relations following the victory of the Islamic revolution. He emphasized the fact that the danger of the arms race by the superpowers, the pressure on Third World countries by the hegemonists, and interference in the affairs of other countries by foreign forces are also the foreign policy concerns of the Islamic Republic of Iran; Iran supports the positions adopted by the Romanian president. He said: Anything that helps to achieve rights is a mandatory and practical task in our foreign policy. It is for this very reason that we consider the problem of Palestine as one of the world problems which should be considered. The world should pay attention to the problem of the deportation and homelessness of the wronged Palestine nation by a usurping government and should work toward realizing the rights of the Palestinians! The Zionist government is a usurping one and should be driven away from the occupied territories of Palestine!

Condemning the big powers supporting South Africa's oppressive apartheid system, Mr Khamene'i added: everywhere in the world, from Latin America to Africa to Asia, signs of oppression by the big world powers can be seen. It is extremely appropriate that in such situations the stands adopted by those countries that dare and have the courage to proclaim their decisive stands should draw closer. Indeed, the expansion of economic relations will only be possible and fruitful if they are to advance parallel with political relations.

In conclusion, Mr Khamene'i referred to the war imposed on Iran by the Iraqi regime and certain countries' unrealistic approach in not condemning the Iraqi regime. He added: What can one expect of a nation that has been subjected to such grievous acts of aggression by its enemy? The aggressor Iraqi regime should have been condemned long ago by the world. If certain world countries had not encouraged the Iraqi Ba'thist regime to continue its aggression against Iran and had they condemned it for its aggression, this war would never have reached the present stage and would have ended by now.

Velayati Comments on Talks

LD111858 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Interview with Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati with unidentified correspondent; date and place not specified — recorded]

[Text] [Correspondent] Mr Velayati, will you please tell us what the main issues were that you discussed with the Romanian delegation, and how do you see the two countries' future relations?

[Velayati] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Relations between Iran and the Socialist Republic of Romania have been expanding, particularly after the revolution. The volume of our trade with Romania has, on average, increased fourfold. During this period, various delegations have visited each other's countries at various levels. This present visit is the second visit by a foreign minister from the Socialist Republic of Romania to Tehran. It has been agreed that Mr Zanjani will shortly visit Bucharest as the Iranian representative on the Iran-Romania joint commission.

During our talks, we had relatively lengthy discussions on bilateral relations and international issues. After expressing opinions, it became clear that a considerable degree of agreement exists between us and Romania in foreign relations; and when each side had a particular opinion on certain points, it was expressed explicitly. We declared our stand with regard to the imposed war and our motives and justification for continuing the war until the collapse of the aggressive Iraqi regime. We also specified our position on Afghanistan and Palestine. Of course, Romania has in recent weeks officially objected to the Iraqi bombing of Iran's residential areas and this was a very positive and friendly step by Romania. In general, we evaluate this trip as a very positive one.

Comments on Talks

LD111952 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] The minister of foreign affairs of the Socialist Republic of Romania, who visited our country at the head of a political delegation, left Tehran after a send-off from Foreign Minister Velayati.

Before departing from Tehran the Romanian minister of foreign affairs gave an interview to our correspondent and described the visit as highly desirable. He added: My official visit to Tehran followed an invitation from Mr Velayati, Iran's minister of foreign affairs. During the visit, we talked with Iranian officials on many problems connected with bilateral relations and certain extremely important international problems. In accordance with my mission, during my meeting this morning with President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, I handed him a message from President Nicolae Ceausescu of Romania, on expanding relations between the two countries' governments and nations.

The Romanian minister of foreign affairs added: During the talks, which were held in connection with expanding political, economic, and cultural relations and other areas of interest the two sides expressed their resolve to continue consistent efforts to expand relations in all fields. He added: During these talks many ways and possibilities for expanding bilateral relations were found and it was decided that an Iranian economic delegation should visit Bucharest in the coming month. We will try decisively and seriously to reach agreements on increasing the volume [as heard] of bilateral relations during the visit of the Iranian delegation.

The Romanian foreign minister described the visit as fruitful and said: During our meeting with the Iranian foreign minister, in addition to certain problems related to bilateral relations, talks were also held in connection with certain international problems. The positions of the two sides were identical or extremely close in many instances. Within the context of world problems it was decided during these talks that the two countries' cooperation

with the developing countries and the nonaligned countries, and also in confronting imperialist policies, fighting the policy of hegemony and domination, and the policy of interfering in the internal affairs of other countries should be expanded.

In conclusion he said: During my meeting with Mr Velayati I invited him to pay an official visit to Bucharest. He accepted the invitation and it was decided that it visit should take place at an appropriate time.

Economic Minister Irzvani Visits Yugoslvia

Oil Agreement Signed

LD071459 Tehran IRNA in English 1452 GMT 7 Mar 86

[Text] Belgrade, March 7, IRNA — Yugoslavia is to import one to 1.5 million tons of oil from Iran in 1986. The agreement was signed at the end of a meeting of the Irano-Yugoslavia Economic Cooperation Committee in Belgrade Thursday night.

The two countries did not agree on the new oil prices because Iran has refused to change OPEC-agreed oil prices and put off any decision on its oil prices until the next meeting of oil ministers of OPEC member countries.

A Yugoslav oil delegation is to follow up the talks on the prices in Tehran in the future, moreover, Iran has agreed to export non-oil commodities to Yugoslavia comprising as much as 20 percent of her total imports from that country.

Before signing the agreement, visiting Iranian Minister of Economic and Financial Affairs Mohammad Javad Iravani in his meetings with Yugoslavian officials discussed Tehran-Belgrade economic and political relations and ways to promote them.

The Iraqi-imposed war and issues of the next summit meet of the Non-Aligned Movement member countries were among other topics discussed at the meetings.

Yugoslav Foreign Minister Raif Dizdarevic in his meeting with the Iranian minister invited his Iranian counterpart 'Ali Akbar Velayati to pay a visit to Yugoslavia.

Meanwhile, Majlis Deputy Qasim Sadaqini who is accompanying Iravani met with the head of Foreign Economic Relations Committee of Yugoslavia's Federal Assembly here Thursday. At the meeting Sadaqini explained Iran's stance in the Iraqi-imposed war and the Iraqi shooting down of an Iranian passenger plane last month.

Returns to Tehran

GF080645 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 8 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Mr Irvani, minister of economic affairs and finances, led a high-ranking economic delegation to Belgrade to attend the joint economic commission held there between the Islamic Republic of Iran and Yugoslavia and returned to Tehran last night.

[Begin Irvani recording] Concerning commerce and the committee on trade, which deals with issues related to petroleum, banking, and commerce, the export of products other than oil was stressed. This is a very good point. It was decided that 20 percent of the Yugoslavian imports from Iran would be goods other than oil.

Concerning the issue of exports, marketing, and research, it was decided that a delegation would go from Iran to Yugoslavia within 3 months.

As far as the issue of the oil is concerned, it has been agreed that Yugoslavia would buy 1.5 million tons of oil from Iran next year.

Generally we can say that this letter of understanding, which was signed in a friendly atmosphere, has special attributes. It pays a great deal of attention to realizing the working aspects of the subjects of the letter. The letter of understanding was drafted with attention to this.

As I said, it stresses the export of goods other than oil. It also puts a good deal of stress on tehcnical and industrial cooperation.

In addition, we explained our foreign trade policy for next year to them. Various aspects were discussed in the meeting of the trade committee with the government and civilian commerce officials of Yugoslavia. Necessary recommendations concerning the operations of bilateral commercial cooperation were made.

Another point is that they were told that they could import goods from Iran before exporting goods to Iran. That is to say, Iranian importers can first export goods before importing. Then, in exchange, import goods equivalent to the value of the exports. [sentence as heard]

In general, the discussions were carried out in a very friendly atmosphere. The Yugoslav president, foreign minister, and all other officials stressed the expansion of economic cooperation, as well as the general relations between the two countries. I consider the trip to be very positive. Thank you.

[Unidentified correspondent] Thank you very much. [End recording]

Foreign Under Secretary Departs for Turkey

LD091759 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 9 Mar 86

[Text] Besharati, our country's Foreign Ministry under secretary, left for Turkey, today, at the head of a Majlis and Foreign Ministry delegation, bearing a written message from President Khamene'i to the Turkish president.

During the trip, the Iranian delegation will discuss the regional situation with Turkish officials.

Libyan Envoy Reiterates Support in War
LD101016 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0330 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] Our correspondent reports that 'Abdallah Fadil, Libyan ambassador to our country, reiterated Libyan's support and backing for the Islamic Republic of Iran in the imposed war. He announced: We condemn the Ba'thist Iraqi regime's aggression on the Islamic Republic of Iran and stand alongside our Iranian brothers on the same front until our common enemy, the infidel Saddam, is toppled.

The Libyan ambassador was speaking in a ceremony held in the Valli 'Asr suburb of Tehran where crowds of people, struggling clergy, guards, mobilization force officials, and the speaker of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq were present. He said that we warn the reactionary countries of the region who cooperate with Saddam and stress that they should not play with fire. Very soon Saddam's regime will be toppled and the Islamic revolution will become victorious in Iraq. He further added that we support the recent attack by the combatants of Islam to liberate the Iraqi soil. This war will continue until the Ba'thist enemy is toppled and the nation of Iraq is freed from the menace of the oppressive Saddam.

The Libyan ambassador then referred to the conspiracies hatched by America and Zionism in Lebanon and Libya and said that the United States will never have any place in our land. We will fight the plots of world arrogance until the last minute. We will not submit to oppression from the United States, France, or Israel. Fadil finally emphasized the need for the continuation of struggle by Muslim countries against world arrogance and Zionism and praised the struggles of Egyptian Muslims. He said that God willing, Mubarak will soon leave Egypt and the Muslim country of Egypt will be free from the presence of this servant of oppression. Then Muslim countries will join forces to liberate Palestine.

Majlis Passes Budget Bill for New Year
LD111856 Tehran IRNA in English 1731 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 11, IRNA — The Majlis (parliament) Tuesday passed the budget bill with a two third majority after giving it a 200 billion rial (dls. 2.4 b) increase. The increase includes higher spending on development projects and current expenditure including a 26 billion rial (dls. 320 m) jump for the military and its related projects.

Other increases include a 17 billion rial increase for the steel industry and a 4.2 billion increase for the organization of nuclear energy.

Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi had presented the budget to Majlis on December 1st. The proposed budget had stood at 7,247 billion rials (dls. 89 b).

Council of Experts that supervises the implementation of the Constitution and the legality of Majlis bills is expected to give its vote of approval to the budget within the next few days making it the law of the land.

Ministry of budget and plan will publish the full details of the budget to the media after the final approval.

But the passing of the 40 articles of the budget was not without opposition. During the 2.5 month debate over 500 changes were suggested of which some 100 were approved.

Speaking in opposition to the increases, the spokesman for the Budget Committee said that neither the committee nor the government could defend the increase.

The press voiced an independent view over the issue. The afternoon *RESALAT* said the increase was inflationary and would pressure the lower classes.

Writing the editorial in *RESALAT*, the former minister of labour, Ahmad Tavakoli suggested an austerity policy. "Preparing the nation to continue the (imposed Iraqi) war under any circumstances is more realistic rather than increasing expectations" he said.

Government of Hoseyn Musavi has envisioned a 15 billion dollar income from its oil sales while non-oil income is expected to stand at around 300 million dollars. Most of the non-oil exports are carried out by the private sector and is not included in the state budget.

Construction on Oil Jetties in Gulf Completed
LD121021 Tehran IRNA in English 1003 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] Bandar-e 'Abbas, Hormozgan Province, March 12, IRNA — Construction work of jetties and oil platforms in the Persian Gulf has been completed and they will become operational beginning the next year (starting March 21), said Musa Khayyer, who is in charge of the Oil Ministry projects, here Tuesday.

Khayyer, Currently here to inspect the process of the projects in Bandar-e 'Abbas, told IRNA that the projects were innovative and have taken experts in jetty construction by surprise.

More on the jetties he said that Westerners had announced that Iran could built jetties only in 12 locations of the Persian Gulf. However, under the unique and advanced system employed by the Iranian experts, he added, several jetties could be built simultaneously along the coastal line and in a short period of time.

The new technique, Khayyer said, which is highly efficient and superior to similar methods, will enable Iran to compete those [as received] countries which had so far monopolised jetty building.

Giving more details on the jetties Khayyer said that it could be installed in a time period less than what is used in techniques employed by Japan. The Islamic Republic of Iran, he added, is willing to present the advanced technique to the world and assist the oppressed nations to become self-sufficient in this respect. Due to the needs of the province, he added, eleven more of the oil jetties will be implemented.

SAIRI Holds Seminar, Forms 'Fajr Army'

LD120838 Tehran IRNA in English 0815 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 12, IRNA — The "Fajr" seminar of the Supreme Assembly of the Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI), held to find ways of mobilising the Iraqi volunteers, ended here Tuesday.

At the end of the one-day seminar which was attended by a large number of political and religious personalities of SAIRI, a resolution was issued which stressed the importance of leadership of Imam Khomeyni. It also called for the overthrow of the Iraqi ruler and establishment of an Islamic Republic in Iraq.

Further in the resolution it was stated that in reply to the call of the Iraqi people, especially those in Iran, for the participation in the campaign against the Iraqi ruler, the Fajr army was formed.

It also urged all Iraqi military personnel to point their guns at the Iraqi ruler and join the ranks of the Iraqi mujahideen.

The resolution called on the imperialist powers and the reactionary regimes of the region to stop supporting the Iraqi regime, otherwise they will have to bear the responsibility for the consequences.

Finally the resolution pledged support for the Islamic liberation movements in Lebanon, Afghanistan, Egypt, and throughout the Islamic world.

Iraq Reportedly Increases Threats Against Kuwait

LD071453 Tehran IRNA in English 1445 GMT 7 Mar 86

[Text] Paris, March 7, IRNA — The Baghdad Government has recently stepped up its threats against Kuwait in a bid to force the Kuwaiti Government to accept its illegitimate requests, according to a French reporter who has recently returned from Kuwait.

The reporter said that following the fall of the Iraqi port city of Al-Faw in recent Iranian offensive, the Iraqi regime has escalated its threats against Kuwait's water border and territory. The intensified pressure is said to be a cause of grave concern to Kuwaiti businessmen.

A heightened feeling of insecurity among Kuwaiti businessmen over the past few days has caused them to contemplate withdrawing their capital from Iraq, the reporter said.

He said rumors had recently circulated in Kuwait that newly-installed artillery units of Kuwait in Bubiyan Island had been attacked by Iraqi troops.

Escalation of Iraqi threats against the Kuwaiti territory is an indication of the frustration of Iraqi military commanders in their failure to recapture Al-Faw from Iranian forces, the reporter concluded.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Iraqi Positions Bombed

LD111110 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] According to reports from the Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters, the center of the joint operations of the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, the fast-flying eagles of the Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran together with other powerful combatants of the Islamic corps, carried out a series of operations at 0630 today. They bombed the positions of the defeated enemy forces along the (Al-Bihar)road on the Al-Faw-Basra axis. Our forces set fire to several depots of armored equipment belonging to the criminal Saddamists and tens of concentration points of the Iraqi forces and destroyed them.

During these operations the enemy's formation and engineering activities were completely disrupted, and a large number of their forces in this region were either killed or wounded.

'Val-Fajr-9' Communique No 9

LD111217 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Communique No 9 on "Val-Fajr-9" operations issued by Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters on 11 March]

[Text] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. O brave nation of Islam, O combative and self-sacrificing nation of Iran: The heroic defenders and anti-pagan fighters of the Islamic revolution continued their jihad against the Ba'thist, Zionist regime of Saddam and created sagas and outstanding and fateful victories in the proud history of the imposed war. The victorious operation "Val-Fajr" was another example from this holy jihad, which once again manifested the glory of the efforts the self-sacrificing forces of monotheism in defense of dear Islam, the Islamic revolution and our God-seeking nation.

With the stationing of the forces of Islam in the occupied positions, we inform you of the shining results of the victorious operation.

While repeating the holy call: Ya Allah, Ya Allah, Ya Allah, during three stages of the operation staged north and east of Al-Sulaymaniyah Province, the combatants of Islam crossed obstacles; fortifications; difficult mountainous conditions; snow-covered heights; and the Zab al-Saghir, Gogasur, and Banabur Rivers. They were stationed in the sector northeast of Al-Sulaymaniyah after staging their operation 40 km inside the province. In full control of the sector, they liberated more than 350 sq km from the filthy presence of the Ba'thists.

The brave combatants of Islam also liberated more than 80 villages and districts and the sensitive and strategic heights in the region, namely 28 snow-covered heights in Al-Sulaymaniyah in Iraq. The brave combatants raised the proud flag of dear Islam on the peaks.

The self-sacrificing forces of Islam were stationed on the heights overlooking several Iraqi towns and completely surrounded Chuwartah. In control of Chuwartah-Al-Sulaymaniyah road, they were stationed 18 km from Al-Sulaymaniyah.

During the proud operation, the God-seeking combatants of Islam also captured and destroyed more than 65 operational bases and completely destroyed the defeated Iraqi forces. With the complete destruction of more than five commando and infantry battalions of the enemy and heavy casualties inflicted on other enemy forces in the sector, namely the capture of the command base of the 504th Brigade and the bases of its three subordinate battalions, the forces of Islam killed or injured more than 2,500 enemy troops and captured 210, during the "Val-Fajr-9" operation. There were several Iraqi officers and NCO's among the dead and POW's.

During the "Val-Fajr-9" operation the combatants of Islam captured 10 tanks, 30 large ammunition and supply stores, more than 40 vehicles, 10 heavy engineering vehicles and trailers, a radio equipment store and a telephone exchange, 10 106-mm guns with full equipment and 40 assorted mortars, and destroyed more than 11 tanks, 200 light and heavy vehicles, and several large ammunition dumps and motor pools in the enemy armored concentration center.

The heroic combatants of the Islamic revolution also destroyed more than 50 percent of Iraq's Chuwartah garrison and all of Sitak garrison. They liberated the (Musakan), (Bare-i Pichuk) and Susakan posts. During the operation, an enemy aircraft was shot down in the sector.

At present, the forces of Islam are in full control of the sector and are defending their captured positions. By crushing any enemy movement, they are dealing more fatal blows to the enemy. With God's help victory and glad tidings to the faithful are nigh.

[signed] Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters, center of the joint operations of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps and Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Communique No 2406

LD111621 Tehran IRNA in English 1528 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 11, IRNA — Communique Number 2406 of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces says that Iranian Muslim combatants in addition to inflicting casualties and losses on Iraqi forces in the western fronts Monday, killed or wounded at least 20 Iraqi troops.

The communique published Tuesday also says that exchange of artillery fire between Iranian Muslim forces and Iraqi troops continued throughout the fronts Monday with effective hits silencing Iraqi artillery and inflicting substantial casualties and damage on them in the northwestern fronts.

In Marivan, the communique says, Iranian Muslim combatants are continuing their tactical pressure on Iraqi troops.

The southern fronts was the scene of artillery exchanges between Islamic combatants and Iraqi forces with Iranian patrols conducting reconnaissance activities and fortification of their positions, says the Joint Staff.

The Joint Staff communique says that Iranian Muslim troops completely checked combat, engineering and aerial operations of Iraqi forces as well as the movements of their full-track vehicle columns throughout the fronts over the past 24 hours. They also severely restricted enemy operations.

Meanwhile, the city of Abadan in Khuzestan Province sustained minor casualties as it was hit by sporadic artillery fire of Iraqi forces Monday.

Iraqi Helicopter Downed

LD111759 Tehran IRNA in English 1752 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Khatam-ol-Anbiya' headquarters, March 11, IRNA — Iranian ground to-air fire shot down an Iraqi helicopter which was on a mission against their positions in Val-Fajr-8 operational theater Tuesday, according to a military communique published by Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters.

The headquarters said that Iran's figher bombers bombed Iraqi positions on Al-Bihar road, along the Al-Faw-Basra axis at 6:30 and again at 14:30 hours Tuesday, killing or wounding a large number of Iraqi troops.

Scores of group bunkers and several of their armoured hardware parks were destroyed in the attacks, the headquarters concluded.

Iraqi Command Headquarters Raided

LD121059 Tehran IRNA in English 1032 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] Al-Faw, March 12, IRNA — The Air Force of the Islamic Republic of Iran in a successful mission at the operational theater of the Val-Fajr-8 offensive, raided the command headquarters of the Iraqi forces south of Munu Island deep inside Iraq, early on Wednesday, said the Khatam ol-Anbiya' HQ in its latest statement.

In this operation a number of Iraqi officers and a large group of Iraqi forces were killed and several enemy motor parks for heavy and light vehicles and armoured munitions were set on fire.

The statement described the damages and casualties inflicted on the Iraqi forces as "irreparable".

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

13 MARCH 1986

Iran-Iraq War

Iraq has taken a "major step" in expelling Iranian forces from their foothold in Shatt al-'Arab sector, the Iraqi command announced in a military communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio. Iraqi troops broke through enemy positions in an offensive early 13 March, allowing the Iraqi southern and central columns to link up, the communique said. On the other hand, Tehran radio claimed that Iranian troops crushed the Iraqi offensive in the Al-Faw area, destroying two Iraqi battalions and killing hundreds of enemy troops.

In earlier action, the Iraqi Air Force attacked the Ganaven oil terminal and two Iranian military camps, according to a 12 March Iraqi communique carried by Voice of the Masses. Tehran radio and IRNA said that Iraqi planes raided towns in Western Azarbaijan.

Lebanon, French Hostages

A French captain in the UN observer force in Beirut was shot and killed by a sniper 12 March, the French Embassy announced in a statement cited by AFP. As for the French hostages, French envoy Razzah Ra'd told Beirut's AL-NAHAR that he is "optimistic" about securing their release, noting that he managed to calm down the kidnappers in his talks with them and that he is working out an agreement, according to AFP. Ra'd met with persons who are believed to represent the Islamic Jihad 12 March and he also held talks with Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, according to Voice of Lebanon radio.

In the afternoon of 12 March, a Paris radio correspondent in Beirut reported that release of the French Antenne 2 news crew was "imminent" after Ra'd held "lengthy negotiations in the Al-Biqa' Valley with the kidnappers." He added that release of the hostages was "no doubt a consequence of the pardon granted yesterday by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to the two Iraqis expelled from France on 19 February.

In a related development, an Iraqi source cited by AFP disclosed that Iraqi President Saddam Husayn pardoned the two Iraqi dissidents after a request from French President Francois Mitterrand, noting that they will be allowed to return to France if they wish. The pardon satisfies one demand made by the kidnappers in Lebanon, AFP pointed out.

Israel

Herut Crisis — The Herut Party convention closed in "complete disarray" with the party "split down the middle" after supporters of David Levi and Ari'el Sharon gained control of the convention Presidium, Jerusalem radio reported. The Levi-Sharon camp has the upper hand over the party "old guard" led by Yitzhaq Shamir and Moshe Arens, the radio said, noting that during the hours of verbal wrangling it sometimes appeared that Shamir was fighting for his political future. The Levi-Sharon coalition had earlier proved its strength by Sharon's election as chairman of the party Mandates Committee, which has powers to coopt new convention delegates. Sharon obtained a relatively large majority over Binyamin-Ze'ev Begin, son of former prime minister Menahem Begin, the radio noted.

Relations With Egypt — At the end of the 12 March Tabah talks in Herzliyya, Foreign Ministry director general David Kimche spoke of "progress" in preparing the "arbitral compromis," though he said the delegations will have to refer several points to the political echelon, Jerusalem radio reported.

Jordan and the PLO

Arab diplomatic sources cited by the UAE's *AL-ITTIHAD* stated that Morocco has succeeded in containing the crisis between Jordan and the PLO, asserting that the Jordanians have assured a Moroccan envoy that Jordan will resume its dialogue with the PLO, WAKH reported. Nevertheless, Fatah Central Committee member Salah Khalaf accused "those who are trying to railroad us into accepting Resolution 242" of "trying to assassinate us politically." Khalaf, who was speaking in an interview with the London paper *AL-MAJALLAH*, also called for a revision of the PLO's declared policy of not mounting "external operations," as announced in a 1974 PNC resolution and in the 1985 Cairo Declaration. He declared that the PLO has recommenced "clandestine operations," warning that the organization will not hesitate to take action against those who are fighting it and indicating that such action may involve the "execution of spies and traitors."

Sudan-Libya

The Sudanese prime minister, defense minister, and foreign minister arrived in Libya 12 March, Tripoli radio reported, adding that the visit falls within the framework of relations of "fraternal cooperation."

DRA-Pakistan

The DRA Foreign Ministry summoned the Pakistani charge d'affaires in Kabul to lodge another protest about Pakistani "aggression" against DRA territory, Kabul radio reported. The latest DRA protest holds Pakistan responsible for cross-border shelling that killed or wounded 65 people in Paktia Province between 4 and 10 March, according to the radio.

FBIS **DAILY REPORT**

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Karmal, Dost Receive UN Special Envoy Cordovez
LD121722 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1530 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] At 1100 today Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, received Diego Cordovez, assistant and envoy of the UN secretary general, who has arrived in Kabul to discuss with the DRA authorities the continuation of his mission to find a political solution for the situation around Afghanistan. Foreign Minister Shah Mohammad Dost also took part in the meeting, which was held at the Revolutionary Council headquarters.

According to another report, Shah Mohammad Dost, following his meetings of the last 2 days, today met with the UN secretary general's envoy at 1500 in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for talks.

Government Delivers Protest to Pakistani Envoy
LD121726 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] The charge d'affaires of the Pakistan Embassy in Kabul was summoned to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs at 1400 today, Wednesday 12 March, and the director of the First Political Department the conveyed to him the following points:

The relevant authorities of DRA report that, notwithstanding the persistent objections and protests of the DRA, the Pakistani authorities are continuing their intervention and aggression against DRA territory and direct support for the Afghan rebels and bandits. Some 1,500 ground-to-ground missiles and other rounds from heavy weapons belonging to the rebels have been fired at the residential areas of Chamkani District, Paktia Province between 4 and 10 March, from the Sangak, Solaymani, Chawki, and Mata Sangar regions. As a result of the shooting 13 people, including women and children, were martyred and 52 people were severly wounded. In addition 20 homes, 40 km of the water supply system, 280 tons of foodstuff, and a large number of fruit and other trees were destroyed.

The DRA Government lodges a strong protest against these provocative and irresponsible aggressions by the Pakistani forces launched against DRA territory and which have resulted in great loss of life and material by our compatriots, and once again demands that the responsible authorities of Pakistan put an end as soon as possible to such hostile acts which only further aggravate the situation on the borders. It is obvious that the responsibility for all these aggressions will rest with the Pakistani authorities.

PDPA Sends Message to Korean Workers Party
LD122348 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1530 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] In a message addressed to the Korean Workers Party [KWP] Central Committee, the PDPA Central Committee has expressed support for the struggles of the people of the DPRK against the aggression and intervention of U.S. imperialism in the internal affairs of that country. The text of the message is as follows:

March, 1986. Dear comrades. The PDPA Central Committee, on behalf of all members of the party and the toiling and revolutionary people of the DRA, expresses the most militant greetings and resolute solidarity to you, dear comrades, and to the courageous Korean people.

The PDPA and the DRA people follow with interest the developments of the Korean peninsula. We greatly admire the rightful struggles of the people of Korea under the leadership of the KWP against the intrigues and conspiracies of imperialism, headed by U.S. imperialism and its regional agents. We fully and categorically support the realistic and courageous proposals of the DPRK.

We strongly condemn the provocative military maneuvers of the war-mongering imperialist forces, with the participation of the Armed Forces of the United States and the servant regime in Seoul, in the Far East, and on the fringes of the Korean peninsula and their shameless intervention and aggression in the affairs of independent countries. This constitutes a serious threat to the independence and security of the countries in the region, in particular the DPRK.

After the victory of the national democratic April Revolution, in particular its new development stage, our country too has been subject to the shameless and vindictive aggression and provocation of imperialist forces and their collaborators. The sharp point of this aggression and provocation is directed against the national independence, national sovereignty, and territorial integrity of the DRA and is aimed at blocking the measures that the PDPA and the revolutionary power of the DRA are adopting for the prosperity and well-being of the toiling people of Afghanistan.

The common aims in the struggle against imperialism and its collaborators and struggle for peace and progress, bind the people of the DRA and the DPRK together.

Dear comrades, allow us to again express the solidarity of all members of the PDPA and the free born people of Afghanistan with your struggles and state our complete support for the realistic proposals of the DPRK toward the peaceful solution of the situations.

We wish you further success in struggle against reaction and imperialism. With comradely regards.

[Signed] The PDPA.

Commentary Views Visit to Britain by Abdol Haq
LD121827 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1530 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] The visit to Britain by Abdol Haq, one of the ringleaders of the Afghan counterrevolutionaries was organized with much official protocol. Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher of Britain

met with the bandit who was the guest of the British Foreign Office.

Although the details of this meeting have not been revealed, according to reports by the London press, increasing British assistance to the Afghan counterrevolutionaries was discussed at the meeting.

THE DAILY EXPRESS writes that the British Conservative Government intends, under the pretext of humanitarian assistance, to increase this help. The British Conservative Government is not ashamed of the fact that it expresses its so-called humanism with those murderers who are responsible for the murder of hundreds of innocent Afghans. The 5,000 counterrevolutionaries under the command of Abdol Haq have committed many crimes against the peaceful people of Afghanistan.

The *GUARDIAN* daily writes that in particular Abdol Haq and his band were responsible for organizing the explosion which took place at Kabul International Airport in the summer of 1984, as a result of which dozens of people were killed.

Abdol Haq's meeting with Margaret Thatcher was the high point of his consultations with British Cabinet members. He also met with Foreign Secretary Sir Geoffrey Howe and Minister of State in the British Foreign Office Lady Young. According to a statement by the British Foreign Office, London has expressed full support for the Afghan counterrevolutionaries. It is also noted that the British Government regards it as quite acceptable to establish official contacts with representatives of the Afghan counterrevolutionaries.

In a recent television interview, Margaret Thatcher confessed that in 1985 alone Britain gave 4 million pound sterling to the so-called Afghan refugees in Pakistan. It is exactly this money which is used by Abdol Haq and his kind for unleashing terror and intimidation — acts which are completely condemned in words by the Conservative Cabinet of Britain.

Thatcher's decision to invite the Afghan counterrevolutionary to Britain has been condemned by the opposition political personalities of that country. A PRESS ASSOCIATION report states that a group of MP's from the British Labor Party handed a note to Parliament in which deep concern was expressed that a counterrevolutionary who is responsible for the murder of civilian people has been the guest of the Foreign Office and the Prime Minister of Britain.

The DRA Government has officially protested to the British Foreign Office because of the visit of Abdol Haq to London.

Gandhi Interviewed on Tamils, Pakistan, Punjab

BK120325 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] The prime minister has suggested that the Sri Lankan Government should talk to Tamils directly and come out strongly in favor of a political solution to the ethnic problem. In an interview to a Calcutta daily, *THE TELEGRAPH*, Mr Rajiv Gandhi expressed his unhappiness over the inadequate Sri Lankan response to peace initiatives. He said the moves that the Sri Lankan Government had been making were coming too late and too small.

Mr Gandhi replied to a wide range of questions on national and international issues. Asked whether he would be making a scheduled visit to Pakistan this year, he said it looks very difficult now because of slow progress in the efforts toward normalization of relations between the two countries.

The prime minister made it clear that it is not his government's intention to encroach upon the Islamic system. He said the bill on Muslim personal law, now before Parliament, is part of a reassurance to the community on the issue. He did not agree that he had succumbed to pressure while introducing the bill and felt that the law sought to be enacted will give women much more rights. In reply to a question on the opposition's role in the whole controversy, Mr Gandhi regretted that it was not positive. The issue was unfortunately projected in a totally different color, he said.

Referring to Punjab, the prime minister said that the center has got certain ideas to resolve the terrorial dispute between Punjab and Haryana.

Asked what made his party withdraw its support to the G.M. Shah ministry in Jammu and Kashmir. Mr Gandhi said the handling of the riots and the government action which we thought was not all right.

The prime minister said that the Finance Minister is working on a composite of package in the case of excise duty to enable the manufacturers to come out clean as has been done in the case of income tax.

Bhagat Voices Concern at UK Attitude to Extremists

BK120748 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0730 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] India has expressed its surprise and concern at the attitude of the British authorities in dealing with anti-Indian extremists in their country. The external affairs minister, Mr B.R. Bhagat, told the Lok Sabha today that government is not pleased with the action taken so far by the British authorities. It has repeatedly taken up with the UK Government the question of taking effective action against extremists in that country. Our views have been conveyed strongly to the British Government.

In another (?written) reply Mr Bhagat said India has requested the Canadian Government for information about the persons who have been trained in the (Roy Mayo) school. Our concern has been conveyed to the Canadian Government at the possibility of these persons indulging in terrorist activities directed against India. The response of the Canadian authorities is awaited.

Home Minister Appointed Maharashtra Chief Minister

BK120517 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] The union home minister, Mr S.B. Chazan, will be the new chief minister of Maharastra. He succeeds Mr Shivajirao Patil Nilangekar who resigned as chief minister last Friday. Mr Chavan was unanimously elected leader of the Maharashtra Congress-I legislature party at its meeting in Bombay early this morning. His name was proposed by Mr Nilangekar and seconded by the state finance minister, Mr Sushil Kumar Shinde, and the labor minister, Mr Thidke.

The AICC-I [All India Congress Committee-Indira] general secretary, Mr Navalkishore Sharma presided over the meeting which was scheduled at 2100 yesterday, but finally held at 0130 this morning. Two union ministers, Mr Buta Singh and Mr Shiv Shankar, were present as observers deputed by the party high command.

Later, talking to newsmen, Mr Navalkishore Sharma said that the name of Mr Chavan was chosen after day-long deliberations with all state Congress-I legislators and a consensus was reached over the name. He said Mr Chavan, who returned to New Delhi early this morning from Lisbon, has been informed about the party's decision and he has consented. Mr Chavan is expected to reach Bombay later today.

Pakistan Troops Wound 2 Civilians in Jammu, Kashmir

NC091603 Paris AFP in English 1546 GMT 9 Mar 86

[Text] New Delhi, March 9 (AFP) — Pakistani troops seriously wounded two Indian civilians when they opened fire in the northern Indian State of Jammu and Kashmir, the PRESS TRUST OF INDIA news agency reported on Sunday.

The agency quoted official reports as saying the shooting had taken place on Friday in the village of Bagyalda,a near the border between Indian and Pakistan.

Six Indian civilians have reportedly been wounded by gunfire from Pakistan since last August.

5 Pakistani 'Intruders' Killed in Punjab Sectors

BK130323 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] Five Pakistani intruders were killed in encounters with the Border Security Force [BSF] in the Khemkaran and Amritsar sectors on Tuesday night. An official release in New Delhi says one person was killed in Khemkaran and another in Amritsar sector. Three more were killed in other encounters in BSF border outposts.

Border Patrols 'Intensified'

HK121518 Hong Kong AFP in English 1508 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] New Delhi, March 12 (AFP) — Indian guards along the Pakistan border have killed seven intruders in several incidents in the past three days, the para-military Border Security Force (BSF) and PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) said.

Authorities have ordered intensified patrolling along the international boundary.

The BSF announcement did not identify the border crossers other than as "intruders," but recent official reports have cited increased activity among alleged Pakistani border smugglers and Indian officials say Sikh militants are training in Pakistan and returning to the Sikh-dominated Punjab state for secessionist activities.

The incidents occurred along the Punjab sector, the BSF said.

It said one person trying to come in near Roranwala in the Amritsar area fired when challenged by the BSF Tuesday and was killed when the fire was returned.

One was killed in an armed encounter with the BSF in Khemkaran area, and three died in two similar incidents at BSF outposts elsewhere in the Khemkaran area.

Earlier, PRESS TRUST OF INDIA (PTI) reported the death of two Pakistani nationals elsewhere on the Punjab border Monday and Tuesday.

Congress-I Leader Shot Dead in Punjab

BK130307 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] In Punjab, a Congress-I leader, Mr Tarsem Prakash Verma, was shot dead by some unidentified gunmen in Jullundur last night. Mr Verma was returning home from his office when he was attacked.

The chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, yesterday reviewed the latest law and order situation in the state at a high-level meeting in Chandigarh. Fresh guidelines recently evolved to deal with the situation were discussed at the meeting. According to an official spokesman, the chief minister, while expressing concern at the situation, instructed the officers dealing with law and order to effectively tackle the situation to restore confidence among the people. He said for doing so the police will not face any constraint of resources.

Meanwhile, the new inspector general of police for crime and operations has taken charge.

Ziaul Haq on Relations With India, Siachen Issue

BK121525 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] Talking to newsmen in Islamabad today, the president said the peace initiative launched by Pakistan 5 years ago to normalize relations with India will continue. He said there has been no change in the situation regarding Siachen glacier and Pakistan wants to solve this issue peacefully through a dialogue. Recently, an Indian delegation had come to Pakistan for talks on this issue, and a Pakistan delegation will go to India next month to continue these talks.

India's Prime Minister Gandhi Discusses Relations

GF121148 Lahore JANG in Urdu 9 Mar 86 p 1, 8

[Report by Maqbul Dehlavi]

[Text] New Delhi — The prime minister of India said that the stiff attitude India has taken against Pakistan has had no result so far, except that hostility and the distance between the two neighboring countries has grown. This is in the interest of neither India nor Pakistan. We are spending billions of rupees on our defense simply because of the differences and the hostility between the two countries. In an interview with an Indian paper he said: How long we are going to follow this path? If we are going to continue on this path then the result will be that we will expend all our valuable resources and reserves. We must adopt other means.

Responding to a question on the Pakistani attitude he said: We have received positive answers from Pakistan. There has been some flexibility in Pakistan on the question of the terrorists. Pakistan has now started taking a stiff attitude against them. In trade matters as well, Pakistan's attitude is better but we will have to analyse it further.

National Assembly Debates on Afghanistan, Siachen

BK120453 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Excerpts] The National Assembly dealt with nongovernment business last night. As the house was continuing debate on imposing a total ban on the hunting of the spotted dove, the session was adjourned until Friday morning.

The National Assembly disposed of several adjournment motions. Speaking on identical adjournment motions sought by Sahabzada Mohammad Ahmed from Bahawalnagar, Shah Tarawul Haq, Allama Abdul Mustafa Alazari, and Mohammad Usman Khan Noori from Karachi, Cabinet parliamentary secretary Rana Nayim Mahmud said the allegations of training camps in Pakistani territory had been time and again refuted. He said the statement of the representative of the Karmal administration is to divert world attention from the real program and is part of the propaganda policy aimed at blocking progress toward a political settlement of the problem. It is dragging its feet on the basic issue of a timetable for the withdrawal of foreign forces from Afghanistan. The movers did not press on their motions.

Speaking on another adjournment motion sought by Mumtaz Ahmed Tarar from Gujrat, Rana Nayim Mahmud said that the government has time and again made it clear on various occasions and on a high-level basis that Pakistan is not a conduit for the supply of arms to Afghan mujahidin; nor does it permit anybody to use its territory for interference in a third country. After this clarification, the mover did not press his motion.

Main Mohammad Zaman did not press his adjournment motion on the recent statement of the Indian external affairs minister on the resolution between India and Pakistan not to attack each others' nuclear installations. Speaking on the motion, the Cabinet parliamentary secretary said the foreign minister made detailed statements on this issue in the senate and National Assembly on the 5th and 6th of this month.

Speaking on identical adjournment motions sought by Begum Isharat Ashraf from Punjab, Rai Ahmed Nawaz Khan, Malik Abdul Rauf, Mumtaz Ahmed Tarar and Sheikh Rashid Ahmed, the Cabinet parliament secetary reiterated that Siachen Glacier is a part of Pakistan. He said the defense secretaries of Pakistan and India discussed this issue in January and the next round of these talks will be held at the end of this month or in April. With the exception of Sheikh Rashid Ahmed from Rawalpindi, the movers did not press on their motions. The speaker rejected the adjournment motion of Sheikh Rashid Ahmed as out of order. This National Assembly member from Rawalpindi staged a walk out.

UN Envoy Returns to Islamabad From Kabul 13 Mar

BK130821 Karachi Overseas Service in Urdu
0800 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] The UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, Diego Cordovez, returned to Islamabad from Kabul this morning after having talks with the Kabul administration on the Afghanistan issue. He had gone to Kabul on Monday after four rounds of discussions with Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan. Cordovez began his mediation mission from Islamabad on Friday. He was received at the Islamabad airport by Foreign Secretary Niaz A. Naik and senior officials of the Foreign Ministry.

SRI LANKA

PRC President Li Xiannian Visits Colombo

Welcomed by President

BK111105 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] The Chinese president, Li Xiannian, and Madam Lin Jiamei arrived in Colombo this afternoon opening a new chapter in relations between China and Sri Lanka. The Chinese president and his party were accorded a ceremonial welcome at the president's house in Colombo. This is the first visit to Sri Lanka by a Chinese president. Former Prime Minister Zhou Enlai visited Sri Lanka on two occasions. The long-standing friendship between the two countries was strengthened with the signing of the rubber-rice pact. Subsequently, the Chinese Government assisted Sri Lanka in the fields of irrigation, textile manufacture, and fisheries. The (Dehiganga) River development project, the Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall, and the proposed sports complex in Colombo are some of the projects aided by China.

Official talks between Sri Lankan and Chinese presidents will take place on Thursday [13 March] when the two countries will also sign two bilateral agreements relating to economic cooperation and foreign investment. Diplomatic observers expect China to make interest-free loans for mutually agreed on projects, similar in quantum to that given to Bangladesh during the Chinese president's visit there.

Li, Jayewardene Speak at Banquet

BK121139 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] China has extended its fullest support to the efforts made by Sri Lanka to safeguard its independence and sovereignty and territorial integrity and to strengthen national unity and develop the national economy. Visiting Chinese President Li Xiannian gave this assurance at a banquet held at the Janadhipathi Mandiraya [president's house] in Colombo last night in his honor by President Jayewardene and Mrs Jayewardene. He also said that China supported the proposal put forward by Sri Lanka for the establishment of the Indian Ocean peace zone. He said that China desires to see the South Asian countries live in peace and amity.

Commending the open economic policy adopted by Sri Lanka in recent years, the Chinese president said that his country was convinced that in the years to come the Government of Sri Lanka and its industries and talented people will make Sri Lanka an even better country by further exploiting their exceptional natural advantage.

President Jayewardene in his speech recalled the links between the two countries going back to the 3d century AD when the Buddhist missionaries carried the teachings of the Buddha to China. He made particular reference to one of the famed travelers to the ancient world, Fa Huen, who stayed in Sri Lanka for several years in the 5th century AD.

Mr Jayewardene said that the spirit of accommodation in and amongst us had been running like a golden thread throughout our history even in those days as it (?now) exists.

The Sri Lankan president said that at this time when Sri Lanka is facing difficulties to rather [words indistinct] the testimony provided by the firm Chinese Government to the excellent treatment accorded to minorities [words indistinct] in Sri Lanka. The historic landmark in the development of friendly relations was the rubber-rice pact signed in 1952, when the present President J.R. Jayewardene was the finance minister.

Mr Jayewardene expressed the hope that the friendly relations between the two countries will flourish in the future as in the past. The Chinese president and Madame Li Xiannian visited the (Maligawa) housing scheme and BMICH [Bandaranaike Memorial International Conference Hall] this morning. The Chinese president also met the SLFP leader, Mrs Sirimavo Bandaranaike, and talked to her for about 20 minutes.

Air Force Raid, Rival Tamil Clashes in Jaffna

Air Force Bombs Village

BK121249 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] In Sri Lanka, a 52-year-old man and his wife were killed and three others, including a 12-year old child, injured when Air Force planes bombed civilians in Jaffna peninsula for the 1st time in 3 weeks. The bombing was carried over at Valveddi about 20 km from Jaffna town from three planes followed by air straffing from three helicopters. Eyewitnesses told our Colombo correspondent that altogether 12 bombs were dropped and the old police station road area was the worst affected. They also said one helicopter was seen transporting men in black uniforms from the (Palali) to Valvedditurai army camp. There was no immediate official statement from the Defense Ministry in Colombo on the incident.

Rival Tamils Clash

BK121159 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] A shoot-out took place between a group of terrorists belong to TELO [Tamil Eelam Liberation Organization] and a breakaway TELO group led by (Dias) yesterday. The incident occurred at the Jaffna General Hospital. As a result of the shooting six terrorists, including the breakaway group leader (Dias), and also the primary court judge, Judge (Kite M. Tiruthpakaran) and a hospital nurse died. Several other civilians in the hospital premises were injured.

The primary court judge had come to the hospital to visit his wife who had been admitted to the maternity ward. The late Mr (Tiruthpakaran) was a well-known lawyer in Jaffna before being appointed to the judicial court. Jaffna residents had expressed

shock and grief at the passing away of this [words indistinct] judicial official in such a tragic manner.

The security forces did not rush to the general hospital to deal with the terrorists (?as) the further shoot-out would have caused more civilian casualties.

Security Minister Confirms Raid

HK130716 Hong Kong AFP in English 0656 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] Colombo, March 13 (AFP) — Northern Jaffna was tense Thursday following the deaths of at least 22 people in clashes between rival militant Tamil separatists and related incidents in the past two days, residents said.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali confirmed that the Air Force attacked a Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) hideout Wednesday at Velvettithurai, at the northern tip of the Jaffna peninsula. Three people died when the planes hit the house with rockets, he said.

Two clashes between rival militant groups fighting for a separate state in the north and east occurred Tuesday and Wednesday. Militants have warned residents not to speak of the clashes, and residents said they feared that continuing fighting could cause more civilian deaths and make life more difficult in the predominantly Tamil north.

Doctors and other employees of the Jaffna hospital kept away from work after a gun battle between militant groups Tuesday killed six militants, two bystanders, a magistrate and a nurse. The medical personnel returned around noon Wednesday, sources said.

A citizens' march Wednesday in Nallur to protest the hospital shootout ended up with militants or sympathizers firing on the group and killing three Tamil civilians, the sources said.

The rival group clashes erupted again Wednesday in Nallur, causing the deaths of six more militants, residents said. The gun battle sent citizens scurrying for cover and residents said they expected further clashes.

This week's killings were the second major set of clashes among militants in the past three weeks, official sources said.

Last month at least 12 militants were killed in shootouts between the EELAM Peoples Revolutionary Liberation Front (EPRLF) and the LTTE, two of the major separatist groups.

Residents said they suspected the clashes were due to power struggles.

Commenting on the clashes, Mr. Athulathmudali said: "The terrorists always shed crocodile tears over civilians, but it is they who do not care. They often attack us from among civilians so that there would be civilian casualties."

Seven Civilians Reported Killed in Tamil Attack

BK101422 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] In Sri Lanka, seven civilian were reported killed and two injured in an attack by Tamil militants in the eastern province of Trincomalee. Security sources in Colombo said that the attack was made in a village at Morawewa.

President Khamene'i Receives IRGC Minister, Deputies

LD121441 Tehran IRNA in English 1339 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 12, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i Wednesday met the minister of Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps [IRGC], Mohsen Rafiqdust and Majlis deputies from Zahedan and Zabol, both in Sistan-Baluchestan Prov.

The minister submitted a report on the latest offensives of the Muslim combatants in the war fronts and the two deputies briefed him on the state of their constituencies.

Khamene'i Receives Outgoing Syrian Ambassador

LD111245 Tehran IRNA in English 1240 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 11, IRNA — President 'Ali Khamene'i received here Tuesday the outgoing Syrian ambassaor to Iran Ibrahim al-Yunis.

At the meeting, the departing Syrian ambassador whose mission has come to an end here, said that President Hafiz al-Asad attached great importance to expansion of ties between his country and Iran.

Expressing satisfaction with the two countries' friendly relations President Khamene'i said mutual ties between Iran and Syria stood at its highest level presently.

The president also said that the implementation of Islamic values is not restricted to Iran alone, but is related to the world of Islam.

He said Syria was without doubt one of the most progressive countries which paid attention to the issue of Palestine and that this very point was among the reasons bringing the two nations closer to each other.

Montazeri Views Role of Justice Ministry Officials

LD121818 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Grand Ayatollah Montazeri met with the heads and supervisors of the Ministry of Justice's departments from various parts of the country and Mr Mar'ashi, a member of the Supreme Judicial Council. He praised Justice Ministry officials, stressing the importance and sensitivity of judicial work in Islam and graciously said: The issue of judgement, just as intelligence work, is very sensitive and the slightest negligence and mistake might bring individuals and society to collapse. Therefore, great care should be taken in selecting responsible judicial officials, particularly the judges and prosecutors. In addition to scientific knowledge and knowledge of religious jurisprudence, a judge should be endowed with the necessary piety, wisdom, and understanding of social matters so that he can issue accurate verdicts.

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri graciously added: A judge should be politically independent and should enjoy enough status in society to be able to summon responsible authorities and even the caliph to the court. Under existing circumstances, where there is an acute need for educated, committed, and wise judges — and the leader of the revolution and the judicial system have also repeatedly mentioned this need — it is a duty of the qualified and eligible individuals to participate in judicial affairs; God Almighty will not accept the excuse of those who are suitable but refuse to take part. It is not right for us to sit aside, raise objections, and refuse to become involved personally. If mistakes are observed in some cases and a verdict passed contrary to the Shari'a, and if for example a person is subjected to tyranny, all other individuals and even those who have sat aside and are nagging will also be responsible in front of Almighty God for not becoming involved despite repeated invitations and their eligibility to take part in Shari'a judgement. God will ask them: Why did you not take part and why did you remain as observers of the wrong judgement?

Afterwards, his eminence called upon the Supreme Judicial Council to remove the obstacles to attracting pious and competent individuals. It was suggested to raise the status of the judicial system so as to lure pious and knowledgeable individuals from various towns and seminaries, or persuade them to allocate at least part of their time to the judicial system.

Grand Ayatollah Montazeri also asked the heads and the supervisors of the Justice Ministry's departments to observe and supervise judges' work within the limit of their power and responsibility and if they come across corruption, mistakes, shortcomings, or weaknesses. They should not remain negligent and should pursue the matter seriously so as to correct the matter. They should not be content with reporting the matter to the capital. Their duties and responsibilities will not be fulfilled by writing reports alone, they should pursue the issue firmly.

His eminence graciously pointed out: Judicial officials should visit prisons unannounced and should investigate shortcomings and complaints. They should receive the needy and others who approach them to complain, and should not waste their time. Our judicial system should be run in a way that makes the people happier every day. Unfortunately, we have often heard that various individuals and those who go to state offices are passed from one desk to another and are kept waiting. Of course, this has been inherited from the bureaucracy and some inefficient regulations of the former regime; the Islamic Majlis, the Council of Guardians, and the Supreme Judicial Council should think of ways to solve this problem as promptly as possible. In conclusion, while reading a few sentences from a letter from 'Ali, peace be upon him, to Malek-e Ashtar, Grand Ayatollah Montazeri listed the required qualifications and characteristics of judges and responsible authorities in the judicial system.

Montazeri Receives Bahrainis' War Contribution

GF111209 Tehran International Service in Arabic 1100 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Grand Ayatollah Montazeri received yesterday a number of Bahraini notables and students who live in holy Qom. During the audience, they expressed support for the Islamic Republic of Iran's just positions toward the war imposed on the Islamic revolution. They presented 2 million riyals, a sum of foreign currency, and 48 pieces of gold jewelry. This is a donation from the Muslim Bahraini people to the military effort.

Cabinet Discusses War, Social-Administrative Issues
LD121500 Tehran IRNA in English 1341 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 12, IRNA — The Cabinet met here Wednesday for a review of the latest war news and social-administrative developments. It also heard a report on the future plans of the Ministry of Heavy Industries.

Experts from the ministry said they plan to improve the quality and increase the quantity of goods produced in factories working under the supervision of their ministry.

The cabinet also appointed 'Ali Sufi as the new governor general for Bushehr Province.

PDRY Envoy Delivers Message to President Khamene'i
GF110844 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic 0330 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] Brother Qasim 'Abd al-Rabb, member of the YSP Central Committee and chairman of the party Higher Control Committee, has delivered a written message from brother Engineer Haydar Abu Bakr al-'Attas, member of the YSP Political Bureau and chairman of the Supreme People's Council Presidium, to his brother 'Ali Khamene'i, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, pertaining to bilateral relations.

This took place in Tehran during his meeting yesterday with brother Mir Salem, the president's adviser, who received the message.

During the audience, an explanation was made of the tragic events which the PDRY witnessed in the wake of the abortive coupist attempt of conspirator 'Ali Nasir Muhammad and his clique.

The Iranian official expressed his country's support for the Yemeni people, stressing the need to develop bilateral relations between the two fraternal countries.

Delegation Leaves To Attend Palme Funeral
LD130628 Tehran IRNA in English 0626 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 13, IRNA — A political delegation assigned by Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi left here for Stockholm Thursday morning to take part in the funeral ceremony of the late Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme.

The prime minister's political deputy, 'Ali Reza Moayeri, is heading the Iranian delegation to the ceremony scheduled for next Saturday.

The Swedish prime minister was slain by two unknown gunmen in Stockholm two weeks ago while he and his wife were leaving a movie theater.

Bulgarian Foreign Minister Arrives in Tehran
LD121749 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] The Bulgarian foreign minister and Politburo member arrived in Tehran tonight at the head of a political deleagtion for a 1-day visit. He was welcomed by Foreign Minister Velayati, the ambassadors of the two countries, and the ambassadors of East European countries and Cuba in Tehran.

On his arrival, the Bulgarian foreign minister said in an interview with our correspondent that the visit is taking place to further cooperation between the nations and governments of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the People's Republic of Bulgaria, and that it is a sign of Bulgaria's respect for the Iranian nation. He added that during the visit cooperation between the two countries and other international issues will be discussed.

Navy Will 'Never Allow' Foreign Powers in Gulf
LD121831 Tehran IRNA in English 1825 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] Rasht, Gilan Prov., March 12, IRNA — Navy commander Mohammad Hoseyn Malekzadegan said here Wednesday that the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran would never allow any foreign powers or regional sheikhdoms to interfere in the Persian Gulf.

The Navy commander said that as the history of the Islamic revolution and the Iraqi imposed war has shown, the Iranian Navy will powerfully foil any conspiracy.

Captain Malekzadegan who arrived here Wednesday morning to inaugurate the first naval military museum, said the navy was prepared to protect Iran's interests as well as security in the Persian Gulf, Oman Sea and Strait of Hormuz.

Gulf States Warned To Stop Supporting Iraq
LD121517 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1114 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Station commentary]

[Text] In the wake of the eye-catching victories of the combatants of Islam in the "Val-Fajr-9" operations, Khatam ol-Anbiya' headquarters yesterday released a communique rounding up the three phases completed up to now. According to this communique, the combatants of Islam have liberated 350 square km in northern and eastern Al-Sulaymaniyah Province in Iraq and have hoisted the proud flag of the Islamic Republic of Iran on 38 important heights of this regions since 4 Esfand [23 February]. The forces of Islam in this operation have also completely surrounded the town of Chuwartah inside Iraq and are at present established in their positions, 18 km away from Al-Sulaymaniyah.

At the same time, the enemy's counter-offensives aimed at recapturing Al-Faw have all been defeated, although the enemy enjoys the benefits of the most modern and sophisticated military equipment and facilities. It is noteworthy that since the first day

of the Al-Faw's liberation, defeated Iraqi commanders have repeatedly described the recapturing of the region and annihilation of Iranian forces as imminent. However their true weakness and inability together with the sensitivity of the Al-Faw region, have forced Saddam's regime to use chemical weapons on a very vast scale and to start an extensive campaign, backed by its regional supporters, to pretend to have been wronged in order to attract international support.

Even these political efforts have failed to bring them any noticeable success, although some of the region's governments have shut their eyes to realities and developments on direct orders from the United States. These governments insist on their efforts to support and to provide the facilities to increase Baghdad's military strength, thus serving the Zionists and alleviating the pressure on Saddam's regime. Unfortunately, in spite of frequent warnings issued by the Islamic Republic, this trend is still followed by these governments without any consideration for the outcome. Because of this hostile policy, tens of thousands of students and workers of our country, together with a massive crowd of Muslim Arabs from the littoral countries of the Persian Gulf, yesterday marched in Tehran, Mashhad, and Tabriz as a sign of protest to these governments and their cooperation with the United States and Israel. These crowds marched near the former U.S. Embassy and while stressing the need for continuing the war until final victory, they categorically condemned these hostile acts. Therefore, it is only right that these governments should consider the present realities, take into account the sensitivity of world Muslims and their feeling of solidarity with the Islamic Revolution of Iran, and refuse to be manipulated by world Zionism or to take part in Saddam's crimes.

Just as our country's officials have repeatedly announced, the Islamic Republic of Iran relies on the policy of good-neighborly relations and maintaining friendly relations with neighboring countries. At the same time, the Islamic Republic of Iran wishes to state that it considers international imperialism and Zionism the main enemies of Muslim nations. Such hostile acts by some small countries of the region are nothing more than results of the pressure from which they suffer. It is up to these governments to stop moving in the direction of U.S. and Zionist objectives. They should not tie their own destiny with that of the condemned regime ruling of Iraq.

SAIRI Spokesman Condemns Kuwaiti Support for Iraq

LD102249 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 10 Mar 86

[Text] According to a report of the Central News Unit, the foreign relations unit of the Supreme Assembly of Islamic Revolution of Iraq (SAIRI) referred to the recent stance of Kuwait's state-owned press and their support for the Iraqi Zionist regime and Saddam. SAIRI has protested against such support, which is quite contrary to the desire of the Muslim nation of Iraq. The SAIRI foreign relations unit spokesman said: Apart from the unjust support of the Kuwaiti press for Iraq's warmongering regime against the Muslim combatants, they have recently tried to depict Saddam as a holy man, and this is totally against wishes of the Muslim nation of Iraq.

In conclusion, he emphasized: It will not be long before such hirelings receive their answer, when the Muslim nations announce whom they support and which individuals and governments are classed as anti-people and agents of imperialism.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

LD121729 Tehran IRNA in English 1712 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March, 12, IRNA — The accurate and heavy artillery fire of Iranian forces smashed an Iraqi counter-assault launched by an armoured unit with the backing of artillery and mortar fire in Panjwin region early Wednesday, according to a military communique here Wednesday.

Communique Number 2407 of the Joint Staff Command of the Armed Forces says that soon after crushing the Iraqi counter-attack and inflicting heavy casualties and losses on them, Iranian Muslim combatants chased and shelled the fleeing Iraqi troops, dealing more decisive blows on them.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were captured by Iranian Muslim forces who are now in full control of regional heights and capable of checking any enemy movement at any time, says the command.

In the western fronts, the communique says, at least 20 Iraqi troops were killed or wounded and over six enemy gun emplacements and observation posts were demolished as their positions were shelled by Iranian forces. They also checked movements of Iraqi vehicles in Qasr-e Shirin and Mehran. The exchange of fire between Iranian Muslim troops and Iraqi forces continued in the southern fronts Tuesday raging somewhat more heavily in the Majnun Islands, Zobeydah and Nahr-Anbar. The Iranian forces opened heavy fire on Iraqi motorized units in the west of the Arvand River and on their armoured units elsewhere in Hoseyniyeh and Yebis, according to the communique.

In the northwestern fronts, the communique says, Iranian forces continued the despatch of reconnaissance patrol units and pounded Iraqi positions killing or wounding a number of the enemy soldiers and destroying several light and heavy vehicels of theirs.

Iraq Bombs Marivan, Sardasht

LD121900 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Excerpt] At 1110 today the Iraqi Ba'thist regime bombed several places in the city of Marivan. At 1200 raiding Iraqi aircraft attacked the town of Sardasht, but thanks to heavy fire by the air defense units of the Islamic combatants they were forced to flee. While in flight they bombed the town of R»bat.

Civilian Casualties in Bombing

LD121926 Tehran IRNA in English 1914 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] 'Urumiyeh, W. Azarbayjan Prov. March 12, IRNA — At least three civilians were martyred and 15 others injured as

intruding Iraqi planes bombarded the Rabat village in border town of Sardasht in W. Azarbayjan Province Wednesday.

The attack came at 17:00 hours local time (13:30 gmt) and destroyed a number of houses as well.

2 Iraqi Battalions Destroyed

LD131053 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] According to a report received from the Khatam al-Anbiya' headquarters, during the early hours of this morning the last-ditch effort of the enemy forces along the Al-Faw-Basra axis was strongly crushed. During this clash, the 601st brigade of the Iraqi Armed Forces, which was backed by two other brigades, lost two battalions. The combatants of Islam completely destroyed these two battalions and annihilated hundreds of the enemy troops. On the basis of this report, another group of the Ba'thist forces were taken prisoner by our forces and as of now, 48 of them were transferred behind the battlelines.

This report adds: At present, the scene of the clash is littered with the dead of the enemy troops and their destroyed arms and equipment; the combatants of Islam, in their positions, are pounding the enemy fortifications and preventing their movements and troop redeployment.

MIDDLE EAST & SOUTH ASIA REVIEW

14 MARCH 1986

French Hostages in Lebanon

The Islamic Jihad issued a communique 14 March announcing its refusal to hold further talks with French envoys until it receives a clear and positive answer to its demands from France, Voice of Lebanon radio reported. The Jihad organization also distributed a videotape of its three French hostages. In a related development reported by the radio, French envoy Razzah Ra'd told Beirut's *AL-NAHAR* that he is "optimistic" about the release of the hostages held by the Jihad, though he noted that the negotiations have not covered the four-man French television crew kidnapped 8 March. Meanwhile, French intelligence sources cited by *LE MONDE* said that hostage Michel Seurat is believed to have been killed 2-3 months ago by the Islamic Jihad, which then waited for an "opportune" moment to announce his execution, according to AFP.

Iran-Iraq War

Iranian forces defeated Iraqi attacks in the Panjwin area 11 and 12 March, killing or wounding 200 Iraqi troops, according to an Iranian military statement reported by Tehran radio. The radio subsequently claimed that Iranian aircraft bombed an Iraqi oil platform 14 March, inflicting "irreparable" damage.

Meanwhile, Iraqi aircraft attacked an Iranian command center, a television relay station in the Tehran area, a munitions factory in Shushtar, and the "strategic" Qotur bridge near the Iranian-Turkish border 13 March, according to an Iraqi military communique broadcast by Voice of the Masses radio.

Iran: OPEC Affairs

The Iranian oil minister confirmed in remarks reported by Tehran radio that he will urge the forthcoming OPEC conference to adopt Iran's proposal to suspend oil exports to Western countries. Noting that Iran has been holding talks with non-OPEC countries, he contended that "countries like the Soviet Union and the PRC agree with us in confronting oil intrigues."

Meanwhile, Bulgarian Foreign Minister Petur Mladenov met with President 'Ali Khamene'i, Majlis Speaker 'Ali Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani, and Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati during a 1-day visit to Iran, Tehran radio reported. Mladenov said the visit, his first since the Islamic revolution, was "excellent and positive," the report added.

Egypt-Israel: Taba Talks

The Egyptian and Israeli delegations agreed on some procedural questions concerning arbitration but "much remains unresolved and the gap between the two delegations is still wide," the Egyptian delegation leader stated in remarks reported by MENA following his return to Cairo. He noted that the Taba talks will resume in Egypt 19 March.

Libya-Sudan

Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi received Sudanese Prime Minister Al-Jazuli Daf'allah and his delegation, Tripoli radio reported. Daf'allah told Al-Qadhdhafi of Sudan's support for Libya against "imperialist and Zionist provocations," the report added.

FBIS

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Politburo Hears Karmal Report on CPSU Congress

LD132213 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] A session of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo was chaired by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council. In this session of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo, Babrak Karmal, head of the PDPA delegation to the 27th CPSU Congress, first presented a report on the participation of the PDPA delegation to the congress.

Karmal said that the 27th CPSU Congress was held under conditions of fundamental changes in the contemporary world. The congress discussed the most vital and urgent topics and adopted resolute resolutions for the consolidation of peace and security. The firm and principled stance of the congress regarding the situation of Afghanistan reflected in the Political Report of Mikhail Sergeyevich Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, was the manifestation of the resolute and internationalist support of the Communist Party and the Soviet State for the heroic struggle of the people of Afghanistan in defense of the territorial integrity and national independence of the DRA.

The 27th CPSU Congress, as a great historic event, is the manifestation of the fact that the front of international socialism, communist and workers movements and all forces of peace and progress all over the world are increasingly becoming powerful and are being transformed into a reliable fortress in defense of peace and international imperialism. The congress determined the prospects for all aspects of political, social, economic and spiritual life of the Land of the Soviets and pointed out the future direction of the comprehensive economic and social developments. The congress pointed out the leading role of the CPSU and the need to further intensify party political work in accordance with present conditions.

The PDPA Central Committee Politburo regarded the resolutions adopted in the congress as having vital importance for the destiny of the world in the interest of peace and social progress. The Politburo highly assessed the participation of the high-ranking PDPA delegation in the congress, and fully approved the activities of the PDPA delegation which included meetings, concluding protocols with fraternal parties, laying flowers on the tomb of great Lenin, attending the news conference in the 27th CPSU Congress press center, participating and talking at meetings in the famous (?Tamaly) motorized division of [name indistinct] situated in the suburbs of the capital of the Soviet Union and the meeting of Afghan students in Moscow, and other activities.

The PDPA Central Committee Politburo session also decided to celebrate the 5th anniversary of the National Fatherland Front as one of the great mass organizations and the center of mobilization of all national and democratic forces of the country. The Politburo session also adopted a decision regarding a number of important domestic and foreign topics.

Keshtmand Addresses Council of Ministers

LD131911 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] A plenary session of the DRA Council of Ministers was held today in which the draft of the socioeconomic development plan, the DRA budget and the enterprises banking plan of the country were discussed. Sarwar Mangal, vice chairman of the Council of Ministers and chairman of the State Planning Committee; Mohammad Kabir, minister of finance; and Abdol Absir, president of the Afghanistan Bank presented reports, and a number of ministers spoke in this regard.

Also a number of legal documents, laws, regulations and bills regarding state enterprises, which were put forward by the Ministry of Justice, the ministries and relevant departments, were evaluated. Minister of Justice Mohammed Bashir Baghlani presented a report in this connection, about which some ministers expressed views.

Soltan 'Ali Keshtmand, member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and chairman of the Council of Ministers delivered a statement about the fundamental tasks of the ministries, state committee and the departments of the DRA in the area of the socioeconomic development and the state budget for 1365 [beginning 21 March].

Comrades, the year 1364 [ending 20 March] has been considered as an important year from the viewpoint of social and political-economic changes taking place regarding the expansion and consolidation of the national democratic April Revolution. Relying on and with the help of the masses, the new revolutionary power has expanded. The first democratic and popular elections for the participation of the broad strata of the people in the leadership of the local organs of the state power and administration have begun and are successfully continuing. Practical steps have been taken toward the democratization of the state apparatus. The traditional Grand Assembly and the tribal assembly have been convened, and the domestic and foreign policies of the PDPA and the DRA Government were supported by them. Readiness was expressed for defending the revolution and its gains.

The DRA Revolutionary Council's announcement of 22 Aqrab 1364 [13 November 1985] concerning the national democratic character of the April Revolution and its immediate tasks under present conditions, and the documents of the 16th Plenum of the PDPA Central Committee concerning the expansion of the social bases of the people's revolutionary sovereignty on the foundation of the theses put forward by Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and president of the DRA Revolutionary Council, have provided suitable conditions for the implementation of the socioeconomic development plans of the DRA and the drafts of annual plans and their prospects.

The realization of the socioeconomic plan of 1364 indicates that gross national product has been increased by 6.2 percent and national revenue by 5.5 percent as compared to 1978-79. An increase of 11.2 percent in the production of industrial goods of the state and mixed sector, a 23.4 percent increase in the production of light industries and foodstuffs; and a 16.8 percent increase

in factory production in the private sector, in comparison with that of last year — as well as an increase in the production of chemical fertilizer, cement, textiles, cooking oil, meat and wheat flour — could be described as considerable growth.

The implementation of measures in exploration and geological affairs, the (?discovery) of new natural gas reserves, increase in the number of state transportation vehicles and the broadening of their activity, putting into operation of a number of major economic projects, the realization of the plan of retail trade in the state and mixed sectors, the improvement of the state, mixed and cooperative trade and the enhancement of its influence in the relative stability of prices and other gains could also be mentioned.

In connection with the realization of the socioeconomic growth plan of the DRA for 1364, the great assistance of the Soviet Union, the traditional friend of the people of Afghanistan, is of fundamental importance. This great and comprehensive fraternal assistance prepares objective opportunities and suitable grounds for the growth of the national economy and the improvement in our workers standard of living.

The share of Soviet assistance in the building of projects under construction during 1364 constitutes 73.3 percent of the total. The projects under Afghan-Soviet cooperation successfully continued in the current year. The plan for the above projects has been fulfilled by 11 percent. There were some 65 projects under construction with the help of the Soviet Union in 1364 alone. It should be pointed out that some 60 percent of the country's industrial products and 75 percent of industrial products in the state and mixed sectors are being produced by Afghan-Soviet cooperation establishments.

It was appropriate that this year, the 65th anniversary of the signing of the Afghan-Soviet friendship and cooperation treaty, which was signed on 28 February 1921, was celebrated in both countries. This celebration took place at a time when the 27th Congress of the CPSU, the party of great Lenin, was being convened in Moscow as a great event, not only for the Soviet people, but for all workers of the world and progressive mankind. The participation of the Afghan delegation at the work of the 27th congress, this great gathering of the Soviet Communists, was a matter of pride for our party and people. The principled stand of the Soviet Union in relation to the solution of questions surrounding Afghanistan, its support for the efforts of the Afghan people in defending their sovereignty and independnece, which had been presented to the congress in the Political Report of the CPSU by Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev, once again confirmed the traditional and fraternal Afghan-Soviet friendship.

The (?technical) experiences attained from the work of the 27th CPSU Congress and their utilization helps in the solution of questions and their method of approach, relative to the conditions of the socioeconomic growth of our country. During the congress everyone again realized that the CPSU and its leadership, following Leninist teaching and policy, creatively and scientifically approached the solution to important domestic and international issues in a principled and critical manner. This matter is a guideline for us too, and is a source of inspiration and learning.

Comrades, pursuing these methods of principled and realistic approach and utilizing the experiences learned, nevertheless do not consider our positive gains in the implementation of the socioeconomic growth plan of the DRA for 1364 to be overly great. Our approach is practical and critical, in order to reveal shortcomings and find solutions to problems. The very major aims and tasks drafted in the socioeconomic development plan for 1365 again are the relative rise in the standard of living of the people, the enhancement of the effectiveness of investments, the timely exploitation of the most important projects of the national economy, the development of the system of planning and basic structures, the effective utilization of the assistance of the friendly countries, the raising of the level of agricultural and industrial production, the continuation of the implementation of the democratic land and water reform, the improvement and strengthening of the agricultural sector, the better utilization of water and water resources, the effective and better utilization of production capacities, the encouragement of and support for the private sector in order to increase the production of industrial products, the improved organization of the transportation enterprises and the further strengthening of the bases of material, technical, social and cultural affairs.

UN Envoy Departs; 'Hopeful' About Talks

LD131716 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto 1530 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] Diego Cordovez, the UN secretary general's envoy, left for Islamabad this morning at 0900 after 3 days of talks in Kabul. He was seen off at Kabul airport by Sarwar Yoresh, deputy minister of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; (Sakhi Daneshjo), adviser in the Foreign Ministry; the deputy chief of protocol in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and the UN Development Program representative in Kabul.

Before his departure, the UN secretary general's envoy spoke with the country's mass media representatives and said that his talks in the DRA on finding a political solution were comprehensive, fruitful, and constructive.

In reply to a question, Diego Cordovez said that the major aim of his visit was to eliminate some doubts and uncertainties, which still exist. He added that he hopes that he can eliminate these doubts in the course of the final stages of talks.

Regarding the prospects of talks, Diego Cordovez said that in light of talks that he has conducted in Kabul, he is very hopeful about eliminating the present obstacles.

BAKHTAR Sponsors News Conference on Human Rights

LD132144 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari 1600 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] A news conference was held by BAKHTAR Information Agency in the Ariana Hotel today in which the state of human rights in the DRA was comprehensively discussed and the effective and practical measures on the basis of the objectives and aspirations of the April Revolution, consolidation of democratic and political life, democratic legality, improvement and

enhancement of living standards of people as true manifestation of human rights, democracy and the true social justice were explained. The news conference was attended by Mohammad Anwar Farzam, secretary of the DRA Revolution Council Presidium; Karim Shadan, president of the Special Revolutionary Court; Gholam Ghaws, member of the Revolutionary Council and representative of the DRA trade unions; Daud Kawian, chairman of the BAKHTAR Information Agency; Nabi Kamyar, minister of public health; Abdol Samad Qayumi, minister of education and training; Mawlawi Abdol Wali Hojat, minister of Islamic affairs; Mohammad Bashi Baghlani, minister of justice; and Major General Gholam Nabi, deputy minister of tribes and nationalities affairs.

A BAKHTAR correspondent reports that at the beginning of this news conference a statement by the BAKHTAR Information Agency on allegations of imperialist circles on violations of human rights in the DRA was read by the chairman of the BAKHTAR Agency. The statement reads in part: The purpose of the leaders of the undeclared war against our country in speaking of human rights is to keep our people in chains of slavery and captivity, hunger, and poverty, and oppression and injustice all of which were eradicated by the April Revolution. The participants of the news conference then answered questions from local and foreign correspondents, the full account of which will be published later by the mass media.

BAKHTAR Human Rights Statement

LD140722 Kabul BAKHTAR in English 0421 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] Kabul, March 13, BAKHTAR — A press conference was held here on protection and preservation of human rights in the DRA today.

The statement of BAKHTAR Information Agency which was distributed at the press conference says:

In the context of the hostile psychological war against the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan (DRA), the use of the false slogan of the "violation of human rights in Afghanistan" constitutes one of the recognized aspects in the reactionary and imperialist propaganda against our country.

The perpetrators of the undeclared war headed by the adventuristic and criminal administration of Washington, have launched poisonous propaganda in this connection. This propaganda is carried out on the basis of reports fabricated by CIA and are supplied to a number of so-called "human rights experts" to deceive the people of the world.

The real aim of such false propaganda is to divert world public opinion from the living truths of the revolution and society, to justify unbridled intervention and aggressions of imperialism and reaction against our country and to conceal the bloody crimes which have been committed by them against our country during the past eight years. Bitter facts are concealed behind this deceptive mask of the reactionary and imperialist circles headed by Reagan's criminal administration boasting temendously as the self-styled guardian of human rights.

The so-called "defenders of human rights" who have not refrained from any crimes against humanity in order to maintain the plunderous interests of imperialist monopolies have converted our country to a bloody wound by launching an undeclared war with extensive dimension.

The ringleaders of the counter-revolutionary mercenaries who were the henchmen of the rotten regimes prior to the revolution and who had kept our country [word indistinct] backward with their treacherous collusion with international reaction and imperialism and had deprived the people of Afghanistan of the most primary human rights have suddenly become the "defenders of human rights". These ringleaders, having received millions of dollars from their foreign master, equipped the criminal counter-revolutionary bandits with modern and mass destruction weapons and exported them to our country. These bandits have ruthlessly martyred thousands of children, women and innocent men, have made thousands of children parentless, have caused thousands of mothers to mourn over their sons and have plundered their wealth and set them to fire.

Freedom of conscience, training, education and health are recognized as the natural rights of every man in the DRA. But the murderous counter-revolutionary bands have destroyed and set to fire over 133 mosques, 2707 schools and 130 hospitals. A great number of clergymen and patriotic teachers were cowardly assassinated by the counter-revolutionaries, who have not even refrained from the poisoning and murdering of school children.

The aim of the organisers of the undeclared war on the human rights propaganda is to keep our people in captivity, slavery, poverty, hunger, oppression and injustice. The glorious April Revolution ruled out all these ignominious blemishes.

The revolution made the people of Afghanistan the original owners of the country, to determine their own destiny and opened the real path of freedom, progress and social justice, the path of profound economic, social and cultural transformations to the people who were kep for centuries in hard captivity of medieval ages.

It is right after the victory of the April Revolution and its new revolutionary phase that one can talk of human rights in the country in its real sense.

Based on the lofty objectives of the revolution, effective, practical and extensive measures have been taken for the further democratisation of social and political life, to ensure democratic legality and for the promotion of the standard of living of the people. The real meaning of human rights is democracy, freedom, and real social justice on the basis of which all the rights and democratic freedoms of the people, such as freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, freedom of conscience, respect for the rich traditions of the people and their national cultures, the right of learning and free education, free use of health services, the right to work and others are maintained and guaranteed. All these rights are inscribed in the fundamental principles of the DRA, and is being implemented day by day. We can cite living examples in this connection:

Ministry of Religious Trusts and Islamic Affairs and High Council of Scholars and Clergymen have been established in the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

In the past five years, over 57 mosques were newly built, 527 mosques and sacred places were renovated. Over 30.8 million afghanis were earmarked for this purpose and financial assistance rendered to scholars and clergymen exceeds 117.9 million afghanis. The total number of mosques built after the victory of the April Revolution in the country is twice the number of mosques which were built during tens of years of reign of the cruel monarchical rulers.

Over 1.25 millions of our countrymen have acquired literacy since the victory of the April Revolution and 409 new supplementary educational institutions have been set up. The total circulation of daily newspapers and magazines has reached forty million copies, exceeding the pre-revolution figure by 12.5 times.

During Zahir Shah's reign, only 107 titles of books were published but over 849 titles of books numbering 33 million copies were published by the revolutionary state in the past five years including printing of the holy Koran and its interpretation and other religious books.

After the victory of the April Revolution, teaching in national languages for national minorities was introduced. Over 6000 pupils in 40 schools receive their education in Uzbeki, Turkmeni, Baluchi and other languages.

The number of public health institutions expanded extensively, the number of beds in hospitals has been increased by more than 120 percent and the number of physicians increased by 58 percent. Medical services have been provided free of charge after the April Revolution for the first time in the country.

The human rights in revolutionary Afghanistan are inherent in the expansion and consolidation of the network of social organisations, such as the establishment of the National Fatherland Front as a powerful political base of the revolutionary sovereignty of the working people with about 800 thousand members. The elections of people' representatives to the local organs of state power and administration have been held.

The people elected their representatives in a free and democratic manner for the administration of state affairs. The expansion of the Revolutionary Council and Council of Ministers of the DRA, with the inclusion of reliable representatives of various social stratas, is indicative of the free, active and democratic participation of the vast masses of the people, including all the fraternal nationalities and tribes with equal rights, in the socio-political life of the country.

The freedom of women and the maintenance of their equal rights with men and improving the children's conditions constitute one of the fundamentals of human rights. These are among the important objectives of the April Revolution and serious care is given to them in the DRA.

The material and moral welfare of the masses of the people and ensuring of their democratic freedom constitute the nucleus of the human rights.

The successful continuation of land and water reforms, the extensive and basic measures in the socio-economic and cultural spheres, brilliant gains attained by the people are manifesting that despite the imperialist, reactionary undeclared war against the country, the objectives of the revolution aimed at improving and promoting the standard of living and material welfare of the masses of the working people are being realised day by day. The drafting of the first five year socio-economic development plan is an important stride towards this direction.

Let the world understand that it was the organisers of the undeclared war, prior to all, the criminal administration of Washington, who committed the most inhuman crimes against the state of the DRA and the Afghan people. And the human rights are trampled down in our country only by the counter-revolutionary bands exported from abroad after being trained, financed and equipped by imperialism and reaction.

The free and working people of Afghanistan want to move ahead towards the humane and noble path they have chosen in an atmosphere of peace and security and to construct their new and ideal society based on peace, progress and real social justice.

Ershad Calls Opposition To Participate in Polls

BK130408 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Excerpt] President Ershad has called upon the political parties to participate in the coming parliamentary polls to establish democracy in the country. Addressing a mammoth public meeting in Bogra yesterday, after all, he said, anybody getting the verdict of the people through the polls can form the government as laid down in the suspended constitution. He again gave the assurance that the elections will be free, fair, and impartial.

About the development of northern zone, he said his government has [word indistinct] to adopt positive steps for accelerating the pace of development in the neglected areas of the country. He said discriminatory approach toward development in the past was responsible for such imbalanced development in various parts of the country.

Ershad Reiterates Call

BK140241 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] President Ershad has again called upon the political parties to discard the path of indiscipline and participate in the forthcoming Jatiyo Sangsad [National Assembly] elections in a peaceful manner. Addressing a huge public meeting at (Purna) in Comilla yesterday, he told the political parties to take verdict of the people who are the source of all powers. Referring to the so-called direct action program of the political parties, the president said attempts to create violence and staging of demonstrations can never change the government. He asked the guardians to see that their sons and daughters do not fall prey to the designs of the politicians and thus (?destroy) their lives.

Turning to the striking nongovernment school teachers, President Ershad said they should join their duties immediately considering their social responsibility and the interest of the students. He said he always regards the teachers in high esteem and has been doing everything possible within the limit of the resources of the country to establish them in a respected [word indistinct] in the society.

Polish Minister Meets With Commerce Official

BK140235 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
0110 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] The visiting Polish deputy minister for foreign affairs, Dr Jan Majenski, has said his country is keen to expand bilateral economic and trade cooperation with Bangladesh. He said this during his meeting with the commerce minister, Kazi Zafar Ahmed, in Dhaka yesterday. The Polish minister said his country will buy a substantial quantity of [word indistinct], jute carpets and other nontraditional items from Bangladesh. The commerce minister emphasized the need for further expansion and diversification of bilateral trade.

Delhi Reports Opposition Meeting on Elections

BK110340 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 11 Mar 86

[Text] In Bangladesh, two main opposition leaders, [name indistinct] and Begum Khaleda Zia, have reportedly met and discussed about the next phase of the movement against holding of elections under the martial law next month. Both the leaders have been demanding elections for a sovereign parliament under a neutral government.

AIR [All India Radio] Dhaka correspondent, Prabhakar Mishra, reports that much importance is being attached to this meeting and it has been held exclusively for the first time since the coordinated antimartial law movement launched about 3 years ago.

280 Nationals on Hunger Strike in Pakistani Jail

BK121719 Dhaka Domestic Service in English
1705 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] The Foreign Office has asked our embassies in Islamabad and Tehran to send details about the reported hunger strike by 280 Bangladeshi nationals in a jail in Pakistan. Commenting on a report in a section of the press in Dhaka today, a Foreign Office spokesman said there is no truth in the allegation that the people approached our embassy in Islamabad but were not given any help.

Minister's Resignation Accepted, Portfolios Shuffled

BK140905 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] The minister for human resources development, Mr P.V. Narasimha Rao, is to hold the additional charge of home affairs. A Rashtrapati Bhavan [Presidential House] communique issued today says the minister of state for communications, Mr Ram Niwas Mirdha, will also temporarily be the minister of state for home affairs. The communique says that the president, on the advice of the prime minister, has accepted the resignation of Mr S.B. Chavan [who became Maharashtra chief minister] from the Council of Ministers.

Home Minister To Be Chief Minister of Maharashtra

HK120430 Hong Kong AFP in English 0336 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] New Delhi, March 12 (AFP) — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Federal Home Minister S.B. Chavan was elected Wednesday to head the government in Maharashtra, state-owned radio reported.

The post fell vacant last week after Shivajirao Patil-Nilangekar was advised to step down following an examination scandal involving his daughter.

Mr Chavan will now resign from his federal post to take up the chief ministership, which would mean reorganization of Mr Gandhi's federal cabinet.

The move is seen by observers as part of Mr Gandhi's strategy to keep a firm grip on state politics and to keep up his "Mr Clean" image.

Mr Chavan, 66, will be the chief minister of Maharashtra for the second time after a gap of 10 years.

A former trade union leader, Mr Chavan is regarded as a veteran politician.

Born on July 14, 1920 at Paithan in Aurangabad District of Maharashtra, he graduated from Madras University and took his law degree. He joined politics in the municipal level and slowly, but steadily assumed an important position in the state politics.

He became a minister for the first time in 1957.

Mr Chavan served in the Federal government also as defence minister and was deputy chairman of the Planning Commission.

Gandhi May Delay Pakistan Trip; Comments on Sri Lanka

HK120650 Hong Kong AFP in English 0633 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] New Delhi, March 11 (AFP) — Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi may have to put off indefinitely a promised visit to Pakistan later this year because of "slow" progress toward improved relations.

In an interview with a Calcutta newspaper, *TELEGRAPH*, Mr Gandhi recalled he had tentatively agreed to visit Pakistan in the first half of this year, but that looked "very difficult" now.

The prime minister said one reason for this concern was Pakistan's "string of contradictory statements recently on the Kashmir dispute." Another problem was Pakistan's handling of Sikh hijackers of Indian planes over the past few years.

On the Sri Lankan ethnic problem, Mr. Gandhi said he wanted Colombo to act speedily to find a peaceful negotiated accord with the Tamils. He said the government should hold direct talks with the Tamils.

"There has not been any attempt by the Sri Lankan Government to actually talk to the Tamils. It has always talked to India instead. Now we don't want them to talk to us, we want them to talk to the Tamils," he said.

Gandhi on Intervention Against States' 'Subversions'

BK131653 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] The prime minister has made it clear that government cannot have any compromise on the basic principle that an officer's loyalty should be primarily to the country and to the unity and integrity of the country. Intervening in a reply to a question in the Rajya Sabha today, Mr Rajiv Gandhi said we must remember that there have been cases in which officers have subverted and worked against the integrity of the country.

Mr Gandhi said this when an opposition member alleged that the center had intervened when a state government had taken action against all-India service officers. The prime minister told the house that there has to be some specific control from the center to see that such subversions do not take place. He said the center in such cases cannot just sit by and watch.

Without mentioning the names of states, the prime minister said some state governments take very peculiar decisions. Sometimes they retire a vast number of people and then reemploy a vast number. When there is an election 2 days later, they take a decision to subvert the very election. There are some basic procedures on which the government should work. The center cannot allow random actions by state governments to distort the whole procedure and system.

Earlier, answering the main question, the minister of state for personnel, Mr P. Chidambaram, said there is no proposal to create zonal cadre for IAS [Indian Administrative Service] and IPS [Indian Police Service] officers. No decision has been taken on the proposal for an integrated management pool. At no stage any state government has challenged the utility of IAS and IPS officers.

Resumption of Sri Lanka Talks Awaits End of Violence
BK131011 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] The Rajya Sabha was told today that there must be specific improvement in the atmosphere in Sri Lanka and abatement of violence before India can reactivate its offer of good offices for a solution to the ethnic problem in that country. Replying to a question, the minister of state for external affairs, Mr K.R. Narayanan, said negotiations cannot be conducted in an atmosphere of violence and killings of innocent civilians.

Replying to a supplementary, Mr Narayanan said India s offer of good offices remains. The visit of the foreign secretary to Sri Lanka has not been cancelled but only postponed.

Answering another question, the minister said government is doing everything to extend protection to fishermen within India's territorial waters.

Visiting Polish Defense Minister Meets Gandhi
BK140317 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] The Polish defense minister, General Florian Siwicki called on the prime minister in New Delhi yesterday. General Siwicki, heading a 7-member delegation, is currently on a 5-day visit to India.

Congress-I Leader Shot to Death in Punjab
BK130307 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] In Punjab, a Congress-I leader, Mr Tarsem Prakash Verma, was shot dead by some unidentified gunmen in Jullundur last night. Mr Verma was returning home from his office when he was attacked.

The chief minister, Mr Surjit Singh Barnala, yesterday reviewed the latest law and order situation in the state at a high-level meeting in Chandigarh. Fresh guidelines recently evolved to deal with the situation were discussed at the meeting.

According to an official spokesman, the chief minister, while expressing concern at the situation, instructed the officers dealing with law and order to effectively tackle the situation to restore confidence among the people. He said for doing so the police will not face any constraint of resources.

Meanwhile, the new inspector general of police for crime and operations has taken charge.

Three Killed by Extremist Activities in Punjab
BK140315 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] In Punjab, three persons were killed and three injured in two separate incidents of violence last night. According to an official spokesman in Chandigarh, about half a dozen jeep-borne suspected terrorists fired indiscriminately at a group of people near Dharamkot in Ferozepur District in which three persons were killed and two injured.

The victims were mostly Nirankaris [a Sikh sect]. They were supervising the construction of a godown in the field at the time of the attack. The police have cordoned off the area and a massive hunt for the culprits is continuing. In the second incident, the local chief of Shiva Sena [rightwing Hindu organization], Mr Avinash Chandra, was seriously injured when some suspected terrorists fired at him in Muktsar in Faridkot District.

Afghan Protest Over Rocket Firing Rejected

BK131534 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] The Government of Pakistan has rejected the protest of Kabul authorities made yesterday that said ground-to-ground missiles were fired from Pakistan toward Paktia Province in Afghanistan between 3 and 9 March. The Afghan charge d'affaires was summoned to the Foreign Office this morning and was told that Pakistan rejects this protest. He was asked to tell the Kabul authorities to desist from making such fictitious allegations.

Zia Addresses Cadets on National Defense

BK131723 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Excerpt] President Mohammad Ziaul Haq said that Pakistan is a peace-loving country but she cannot leave her defense to the mercy of others. He said this while speaking to cadets graduating from the Pakistan military academy at Kakul today. The president said we cannot ignore our defense because weakness invites aggression and a weak nation must pay very dearly for her weakness. The defense of the nation is the collective responsibility of the whole nation and the Armed Forces play the role of front-line contingent.

Referring to the security situation of Pakistan, the president said that our soldiers besides being well trained and armed, have matchless morale and are capable of protecting the geographic and ideological frontiers of the Islamic community. General Mohammad Ziaul Haq said Pakistan will continue the task of providing better training and modern weapon to its Armed Forces so as to enable them to defend the country's ideologies and integrity. The president urged the new officers being commissioned to consider four things to prove that they are trustworthy guardians of the beloved country. First they should take their guidance from the holy Koran and the teachings of the prophet Mohammad for their indomitable faith. Second, they should have expertise in handling the latest weapons and should keep abreast of changing trends and technqiques. Third, they should professionally groom their subordinates. They should look after their well-being and should gain their confidence at any cost. The fourth and last basic thing for a good soldier is to concentrate all his attention on professional matters.

Junejo Leaves To Attend Palme's Funeral

BK140625 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0600 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] Prime Minister Mohammad Khan Junejo left Islamabad for Sweden a short while ago to attend the funeral of the late Swedish Prime Minister Olof Palme. Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan is accompanying him. Senate Chairman Ghulam Ishaq Khan, federal ministers, senators, members of provincial and national assemblies, mayor of Rawalpindi, councillors and high officials saw him off at the airport. The Swedish ambassador to Pakistan was also present on the occasion.

Talking briefly to newsmen, the prime minister said during his stay in Stockholm he will hold talks with the new Swedish prime minister, Inguar Carlsson. He said he will also meet other world leaders attending the funeral in Stockholm. The prime minister is likely to return home on Tuesday [18 March]. He will also perform an unscheduled pilgrimage [to Mecca] while on his way back home.

Opposition Leaders Put Under House Arrest

BK121405 Delhi General Overseas Service in English
1330 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] In Pakistan, nine prominent opposition leaders, including Khan Abdul Wali Khan, have been put under house arrest. These preventive arrests were made to stop these leaders from attending a meeting on the government action against poppy growers. The leaders after a meeting were scheduled to lead a march to the governor's house in Peshawar. Meanwhile, a judicial probe has been ordered into last week's incident in which 80 poppy growers were killed and many others injured in clashes with the paramilitary forces.

SRI LANKA

Jayewardene Holds Talks With PRC President

BK131124 Colombo International Service in English 1030 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Excerpt] The Chinese president, Li Xiannian, and Sri Lanka's President Jayewardene held talks on bilateral issues at the Janadhipathi Mandiraya [President House] in Colombo this morning. Following the talks two agreements were signed between Sri Lanka and China. Under an economic and technical cooperation agreement, the Chinese Government will provide Sri Lanka with an interest-free loan of approximately 425 million rupees over a 5-year period. This money will be used for projects to be agreed upon by the two governments. The loan is repayable in 10 years with a grace period of 10 years. The agreement on reciprocal promotions and protection of investment provides the framework for the encouragement in creation of favorable conditions for nationals and companies of China in Sri Lanka to make investments in the two countries. Two agreements were signed by the Chinese state councillor, Madam Chen Muhua, and Sri Lanka's foreign affairs minister, A.C.S. Hameed. The signing of these agreements reflects the close relations between Sri Lanka and China and the recognition of the need for further strengthening economic cooperation between the two countries.

Minister Announces Trial Suspension of Air Attacks

HK131153 Hong Kong AFP in English 1133 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Excerpts] Colombo, March 13 (AFP) — The government Thursday announced a one-week trial suspension of armed forces air attacks on militant Tamil separatists from Saturday.

National Security Minister Lalith Athulathmudali said that if within one week of the freeze on air attacks, militants stopped ferrying men, weapons and explosives across the Palk Strait from India, the government would continue with the suspension.

He said that if during this period there was what he called a proper response from the militants and if no acts of violence occurred in the one month leading up to the Sinhala and Tamil new year in mid-April, the government was willing to open any kind of dialogue with the militants or any section of the Tamils for a political settlement of the ethnic problem.

Mr Athulathmudali earlier Thursday confirmed that the Air Force attacked a Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) hideout Wednesday at Velvettithurai, at the northern tip of the Jaffna peninsula. Three people died when the planes hit the house with rockets, he said.

Mr Athulathmudali said India had not been notified of Colombo's suspension of air attacks, but said he appreciated the "continuing good offices" of New Delhi.

He said an invitation to Indian Foreign Secretary Romesh Bhandari to continue with mediatory talks still stood.

Colombo has charged that New Delhi provides bases for Tamil separatists in the southern state of Tamil Nadu but India has consistently denied these allegations.

Mr Athulathmudali said that in the last few days four boats were sunk by the navy in the Palk Strait area, of which at least three were suspected of ferrying arms from southern India.

A statement issued during his press briefing said Sri Lanka reiterated "its firm and unqualified commitment to a political resolution of the current ethnic problem."

But the government, it said, was constrained in its efforts by "armed terrorist action" which "as the world is aware and as the foreign media and other public sources have long recognised derives support and sustenance from outside Sri Lanka."

Mr Athulathmudali said that if there was no violence during the one-month time frame then talks, "direct or indirect, formal or informal" could be started with any section of the Tamils.

The minister also said that several messages had been received from Tamil refugees now in southern India saying they wished to come back because of conditions there.

But they had complained that the surveillance by Colombo's forces in the northern waters stopped them from returning. To facilitate their return he announced that from Saturday refugees could travel back directly from Rameswaram in southern India to Talaimannar in northwestern Sri Lanka.

This access route would be kept open for eight hours each day.

Delhi Reports 4 Killed in 13 Mar Air Attacks

BK140935 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] Even as the Sri Lanka Government announced suspension of air raids on Jaffna peninsula from tomorrow, four persons were killed in (Mallide), about 20 km from Jaffna, as helicopters strafed the village for 4 hours yesterday. One woman was killed in the initial air attack. Three more died as the helicopters struck again while funeral arrangements for the dead women were being made. Eight persons were injured, 4 of them critically, and 15 houses damaged.

Further on Visit by Bulgarian Foreign Minister

Meets Agriculture Minister

LD131012 Tehran IRNA in English 0923 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 13, IRNA — The visiting foreign affairs minister of Bulgaria, Petur Mladenov, in a meeting with the Iranian Minister of Agriculture 'Ali 'Abbas Zali here Thursday morning, discussed expansion of bilateral relations.

Zali hoped that exchange of visits between the officials of the two countries will result in further strengthening of agricultural cooperation.

The Bulgarian official who arrived here Wednesday night heading a delegation, said that there were vast grounds for cooperation between the two countries, adding that Bulgaria was interested in expansion of mutual ties.

Musavi Confers With Mladenov

LD131129 Tehran IRNA in English 1005 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 13, IRNA — The visiting Bulgarian foreign minister, Petur Mladenov, in a meeting with Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi here Thursday morning, presented a message from Bulgarian prime minister inviting Musavi to visit Bulgaria.

Expressing interest of Bulgaria in expanding overall relations with the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mladenov said that his country was against production, storage and deployment of chemical weapons in war.

Prime Minister Musavi thanking Premier Grisha Filipov for his friendly message, said that he will visit Bulgaria in an appropriate time in future.

He stressed the importance of exploring present possibilities of the two countries for the expansion of political and economic ties and added that the Islamic Republic of Iran has paved the way for expansion of relations with friendly countries.

He emphasised that bilateral relations should be strengthened in the interest of the two nations, adding that further exchange of visits could be effective in this respect.

The Bulgarian foreign minister, who arrived here Wednesday afternoon heading a high-ranking political and economic delegation, held first round of talks with Iranian Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, Wednesday evening.

The two sides, reviewed prospects of greater mutual cooperation in various fields.

The two foreign ministers, referring to the forthcoming session of the joint economic commission of Iran and Bulgaria due to be held in Sofia, reiterated their interest in the expansion and strengthening of mutual ties. Mladenov also extended an invitation to Velayati which was accepted. The date of the visit has not yet been decided.

Khamene'i Receives Zhivkov Message

LD131340 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, this morning, received Mr Petur Mladenov, the Bulgarian foreign affairs minister who arrived in Tehran last night at the head of a high-ranking political-economic delegation. This meeting was also attended by Mr Velayati, the minister of foreign affairs; the political director-general of the Foreign Affairs Ministry for Europe and America; the political deputy of the Bulgarian Foreign Affairs Ministry and the two countries' diplomatic representatives. The Bulgarian foreign affairs minister first conveyed the warm greetings of Mr Todor Zhivkov, the president of Bulgaria and submitted a written message from his country's president to Mr Khamene'i on the full readiness of Bulgaria to expand bilateral political and economic relations, the need for closer cooperation between the friendly countries, which stand against imperialism and reaction, and the need to halt the arms race and threat of nuclear war between the superpowers.

The Bulgarian foreign affairs minister, while welcoming expansion of bilateral relations since the victory of the Islamic Revolution, referred to the two countries' common political views and regarded them as a suitable ground for further expansion of bilateral relations. He briefed the president on Mr Zhikov's concern regarding the arms race and nuclear war and the need for cooperation among world countries in the struggle against imperialism, colonialism, apartheid, and reaction.

Afterwards, President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i, while expressing gratitude for the message of the Bulgarian people's president, agreed with his stances and stressed the need for closer cooperation among anti-imperialist countries and said:

After the victory of the Islamic Revolution of Iran, we established close links with all the countries thath had anti-imperialist tendencies and have cut off relations with those countries having imperialist inclinations; or in some cases have reduced contact to the necessary minimum. In fact this shows a 180-degree turn in our country's foreign policy in opposing the falacious policy of the previous regime. We have based our relations with other countries of the world on this and we shall strive to expand these relations as long as the countries guarantee mutual respect in accordance with our revolutionary ideas.

Second Round of Velayati Talks

LD131818 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] Mr Petur Mladenov, foreign minister of the people's Socialist Republic of Bulgaria, held his second round of talks with our country's foreign minister at the Foreign Ministry building this afternoon. During these talks, the sides discussed bilateral relations and international issues in detail. Mr Velayati described the Islamic Republic of Iran's positions on Middle East issues, Palestine, and Lebanon. He said: Palestine will be liberated only with guns; there is no other way conceiveable. Mr Velayati also described the Islamic Republic of Iran's positions regarding the imposed war and the recent victories of the com-

batants of Islam. He said: Although our forces are in Iraqi territory, the intention is not to occupy Iraqi territory. Rather, our aim is to deliver an appropriate response to the aggressive Iraqi regime. We believe that Saddam's regime is not fit to remain in the region.

Mr Mladenov, stressing the large number of common features in the two countries' political positions, said: You know that since the emergence of the Palestine issue, our position has remained unchanged. We believe that none of the region's issues will be resolved without solving the Palestine problem. He added: Our positions regarding South Africa and many other international issues are similar or identical. We wish to see nuclear weapons reduced and eliminated. We are also opposed to the Strategic Defense Initiative.

Received by Hashemi-Rafsanjani

LD131950 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] Bulgarian Foreign Minister Mladenov met with Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani this evening. During the meeting Mr Mladenov said:

It is my duty to convey greetings and best wishes from the chairman of the Presidium of the National Assembly of Bulgaria. Later, he extended an invitation to Hashemi-Rafsanjani from the chairman of the Presidium of the National Assembly of Bulgaria to visit that country.

Stressing that relations between the two assemblies could be very effective in bilateral relations, Mladenov said: Following the Islamic Revolution you gained great achievements and [words indistinct] have now gained a glorious position. We wish to continue our relations and enjoy your experience of struggles for the benefit of our country while expanding bilateral relations for mutual interest.

Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani thanked the Bulgarian National Assembly Presidium chairman for the invitation and said: I accept your invitation because I have wanted to visit your country and other East European countries. Such a visit can strengthen bilateral friendship and understanding and help to solve international problems. During the years following the revolution we have recognized your country as among those with whom we wish to have friendly relations. I see no obstacle in the way of expanding relations with you. There are suitable common grounds which encourage us to expand relations further.

Mladenov Ends Visit

LD132021 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] Petur Mladenov, minister of foreign affairs and member of the Politburo of the People's Republic of Bulgaria, who visited Tehran at the head of a political and economic delegation for a 1-day official visit, during which he met with our country's high-ranking officials, left Tehran for home today. He was seen off by Minister of Foreign Affairs Velayati; the ambassadors of the two countries; and the ambassadors of the East European countries and Cuba to the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Before his departure from Tehran, the Bulgarian minister of foreign affairs gave an interview to our correspondent. He described his visit as excellent and positive, and said: The talks held with Mr Velayati about bilateral relations and fundamental international problems were profound and extremely interesting. Moreover, I was received in audience by the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran today and I also had meetings with the speaker of the Majlis and with the Iranian prime minister. The talks were held in an extremely cordial and sincere atmosphere and the two sides expressed their desire and will for action toward expanding bilateral relations. During these meetings, friendly messages from the authorities of the People's Republic of Bulgaria concerning improving cooperation and bilateral relations and also on important international issues, were delviered to the Iranian authorities. Some of these messages invited certain high-ranking Iranian officials to pay official visits to Sofia.

Foreign Affairs Minister Velayati also gave an interview to our correspondent in connection with the results of this visit. We now draw your attention to this interview:

[Begin recording] [Question] Mr Velayati, would you please tell us what were the most important issues discussed with this delegation and how you see cooperation between the two countries in the future?

[Velayati] In the name of God, the compassionate, the merciful. Mr Mladenov, the esteemed minister of foreign affairs of Bulgaria, paid his first visit to our country since the Islamic Revolution. Indeed, this was in response to my own humble visit and to the official invitation extended to him last year.

Our talks were connected with bilateral relations, regional problems, and topical international political difficulties.

Since the Islamic Revolution Iranian-Bulgarian relations have expanded in a remarkable manner. They have made purchases from us, including petroleum products and others and in return we are buying from them certain agricultural produce and industrial products. Bulgaria's abilities, particularly in the agricultural and stock-breeding areas, are good. We have studied their experience in agriculture and stock breeding and so far we have enjoyed excellent cooperation. God willing, our cooperation will further increase in the future.

He also conveyed messages to the responsible officials of our country and invited Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani and the prime minister, on behalf of their counterparts, to visit Bulgaria.

The invitations were accepted by the gentlemen concerned and they will begin these visits at an appropriate opportunity.

In the meantime, a meeting of the two countries' joint commission will be held in Sofia, capital of Bulgaria, in the coming months. Mr Zali, our esteemed agriculture minister, will take part in these talks as the Iranian representative. The economic delegation which has traveled to Tehran with the Bulgarian foreign minister, is remaining in Tehran in order to complete the

necessary talks on preparing the essential groundwork for the joint commission. We believe that our relations with Bulgaria will expand even further in the future. [end recording]

Foreign Ministry Criticizes 'Arafat's Remarks

LD131702 Tehran IRNA in English 1640 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] Tehran, March 13, IRNA — The Foreign Ministry of the Islamic Republic Thursday sharply criticised Yasir 'Arafat for voicing support for the Iraqi war effort against Iran.

The spokesman said "The solidarity of Yasir 'Arafat with Iraq and some reactionary states in the region, who have open or covert relations with the Zionist regime of Israel, indicates the retrogressive leadership of the Palestine Liberation Organization".

Recent reports quoted 'Arafat as saying that Saddam seeks peace and Iran's recent offensives (Val-Fajr-8-9) into Iraqi soil should be condemned.

The spokesman said "The militant Muslims of Palestine should question these leaders who in the very name of Palestine misuse the potentials of the deprived Muslim nation and have not yet taken a positive step in fighting the occupiers of the holy land of Qods".

Remarks by 'Arafat are "made after the revelation of covert relations between Iraq and Israel in a promise to recognize the Zionist regime in return for military support" said the spokesman.

But these facts, he said, "indicate the crisis the Iraqi regime is faced with as well as the solidarity of the reactionary and pro-U.S. wing in PLO with Saddam".

Minister Urges End of Oil Exports to West

GF140549 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] According to our correspondent, Mr Gholamreza Aqazadeh, the oil minister of Iran, this morning left for Geneva to take part in the 77th OPEC conference as head of an Iranian delegation.

Before leaving for the conference Mr Aqazadeh said: The Islamic Republic of Iran is strongly opposed to any oil price reduction and will look at any discussion on production quotas in terms of stabilizing oil prices. Aqazadeh added: This is a delicate situation. OPEC actions will be recorded in its history and the history of its member nations. Only cooperation among OPEC members can neutralize the superpower plots.

The oil minister added: One proposal that Iran will make at this meeting is to stop oil exports to the Western countries for a defined period.

Mr Aqazadeh also said Iran cut its oil exports during January and February to stabilize the oil market, although this action should have been taken by certain other members. However, we hope that a number of OPEC members will review their policies. Our oil minister added: Apart from Algeria and Libya, certain other OPEC members are also cooperating in our favor. At present our position is completely logical and principled and is based on OPEC objectives. Mr Aqazadeh hoped that countries like Saudi Arabia will notice that the weakening of OPEC can also effect them.

In connection with current Iranian oil exports, our country's oil minister said Iran is currently implementing its long-term agreements. Mr Aqazadeh also said that we have also had talks with certain non-OPEC countries, and countries like the Soviet Union and the PRC agree with us in confronting the oil intrigues. We hope that the results of these talks will be announced by them.

According to the report several non-OPEC members will also attend the 77th session of OPEC, which will open in Geneva on 16 March.

Reportage on Combat Operations in War With Iraq

Al-Sulaymaniyah Counterattack 'Smashed'

LD121436 Tehran IRNA in English 1422 GMT 12 Mar 86

[Text] N.E. Al-Sulaymaniyah, Iraq, March 12, IRNA — Iranian Muslim forces smashed another Iraqi counter-assault in heights east of Al-Sulaymaniyah Tuesday night, killing or wounding more Iraqi soldiers, and capturing six others.

A large quantity of weapons and equipment belonging to the Iraqi forces were seized by Iranian Muslim combatants during the crushed counter-attack and the remainder of Iraqi troops were forced to flee.

Al-Faw Positions Holding

LD131739 Tehran IRNA in English 1730 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] Khatem ol-Anbiya' HQ, March 13, IRNA — The military operational headquarters said here Thursday that its forces have repulsed an Iraqi counterattack in Iraq's southern Al-Faw peninsula.

The forces of the Baghdad regime counterattacked in the north of the Al-Faw salt lake Thursday morning but were severely supressed by the bravery and resistance of the Islamic combatants, said the headquarters.

Iraq had claimed earlier its forces captured the 30 sq km salt lake northwest of the oil port of Al-Faw.

The Khatem ol-Anbiya' headquarters acknowledged in its communique number 24 earlier IRNA reports that hundreds of Iraqi troops were killed or wounded in the fighting and that some fifty others were taken captive.

It said two battalions of the 601st Brigade were routed and heavy losses were inflicted on the 103rd and 90th brigades. (Earlier

IRNA dispatches made an error in reporting the 103 Brigade as 107 brigade)

The communique said "now the Islamic combatants are fully positioned in their bunkers in the north of the salt lake and have paralyzed Iraqi forces by pounding their positions".

Communique No 24

LD132231 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 2030 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] Khatem ol-Anbiya' headquarters, the joint operational center for the Armed Forces of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, in its communique no 24 issued tonight states:

In the name of God the compassionate, the merciful, O warrior nation and heroic Muslim Ummah of Iran; Islam's proud and mighty forces in the course of their epic war inflict heavy blows at the disintegrated body of the Ba'thist moribund enemy every day forcing the enemy to bear heavy losses and damage.

The Baghdad regime's forces continue their desperate and futile attempts emanating from repeated defeats in the warfronts and the lack of experience and competence of the military personnel of that country, this morning staged a counteroffensive north of the salt lake situated within Val-Fajr 8 operational area. It was soundly beaten thanks to the brave and steadfast forces of Islam. During the counteroffensive staged by 601st infantry brigade and supported by 103d and 90th Brigades [as heard] of the Iraqi Army, the Islamic warriors succeeded in destorying two battalions of 601st brigade and inflicting heavy losses and damage on the Iraqi 103d and 90th Brigades.

Following the confrontation, hundreds of the enemy forces were killed or injured and further 50 of their personnel were captured by our forces. Also, a considerable quantity of the enemy equipment was set ablaze and destroyed by Islamic combatants. So much so, that the area of the conflict is now littered with enemy corpses and their destroyed war machinery and equipment.

The Islamic warriors are now stationed in their positions north of the salt lake and are directing fire on enemy emplacements and fortifications to halt any movements or redeployments by the Baghdad regime forces. Katem ol-Anbiya' headquarters.

Enemy Casualties Reported

LD131747 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 13 Mar 86

[Text] The Joint Staff Command of the Islamic Republic of Iran Armed Forces announced that during the victorious operations by the Islamic combatants on 11 March in Panjwin operational area, Iraqi forces were completely repelled and knocked out. The defeated enemy once again attempted another counteroffensive at 1300 hours 12 March — supported by armored units and intense support fire by its artillery, aircraft, and helicopter gunships — and tried to gain access to some predetermined heights in the area. The Islamic fighters enjoying all available resources defeated the enemy operations by 1545 hours the same day, and destroyed enemy forces.

Based on the latest available data, the enemy losses during the above two operations was estimated to be 200 killed and injured. Furthermore, almost 30 enemy vehicles were destroyed or heavily damaged by intense fire of the Islamic fighters on the Chuwartah-Sulaymaniyah axis.

Throughout the rest of the northwestern operational sector our mighty warriors succeeded in the destruction of enemy positions with heavy defensive fire, silencing their fire and killing or injuring a number of the Saddamists.

The defeated enemy, facing the courageous operations by the Islamic warriors, bombarded the small town of Rabat at various times on 12 March resulting in the injury and martyrdom of a number of our fellow countrymen.

The valiant forces along our country's western operational areas also directed effective and precise fire and destroyed more than 10 enemy emplacements and ammunition dumps, killing or injuring 20 members of the enemy forces.

Based on the same report, Abadan came under sporadic enemy fire which caused some damage to a number of residential units.

Village Near Shadegan Hit

LD140802 Tehran IRNA in English 0800 GMT 14 Mar 86

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., March 14, IRNA — Intruding enemy planes bombarded a village in the vicinity of Shedagan at 14:00 hours (10:30 GMT) Thursday. Four Arabic-speaking tribesmen of the village were wounded and three housing units were destroyed in this inhuman Iraqi attack.

Iraqi Oil Rig Attacked

LD141041 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 14 Mar 86

[From the news headlines]

[Text] Air Force pilots of the Islamic Republic of Iran at 0630 today carried out a successful operation in the course of which they bombed the Iraqi Al-Umayyah oil platform. Irreparable damage and losses were inflicted on the enemy in the raid, so much so that the oil platform was ablaze for hours afterwards.